

WAVELL'S NEXT STEP

See
Page 3

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1940

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WAVELL'S SLEDGE-HAMMER

Imperial Forces In Pursuit Of Fleeing Italians

Sudden Spanish Move At Tangier

The Spanish authorities dissolved the International Administration of Tangier at a moment's notice at noon yesterday—all British, French and Italian employees were dismissed with immediate effect, including the British Finance Minister and his Treasurer.

The international police were also dissolved and replaced by a Spanish security guard, while the Spanish Administrator, Senor Amista, was dismissed and replaced by a military official.

A vigorous protest has been made to the Spanish authorities at Tangier, Reuter learns in London, by the British Consul-General there against the dismissal of British employees. A British judge is among those dismissed.—Reuter.

"CIVILIAN V.C." FOR SHIP'S STEWARD

CARRYING THOUSANDS of tons of petrol, a British tanker in convoy was bombed and set on fire by what had been thought to be a friendly plane. There was a terrific explosion, two men were killed and a large and fierce fire was soon raging on the starboard side.

While the entire crew fought the flames, ammunition caught fire and the captain ordered all ammunition to be dumped overboard.

Able-Seaman W. J. Dryden volunteered to enter the magazine, which he flooded, and subsequently emptied of its dangerous contents.

The tanker's crew overcame the fire and eventually brought her safely to port.

Steward Hero

In another ship hit by two bombs, the assistant steward, Frederick Trundley, stood on a wooden locker directing a hose while fires raged within a few yards of him, threatening to blow out the ship's side.

The fires were finally extinguished and a very valuable ship and cargo was brought safely to port.

These are some of the acts of heroism at sea by officers and men of the Merchant Service for which awards for gallantry were announced in the London "Gazette" last night.

Trundley is awarded the George Medal, the "Civilians' V.C."—Reuter.

LUFTWAFFE TAKES A DAY OFF

No bombs were dropped in any area of the United Kingdom during daylight yesterday, an Air Ministry communiqué stated last evening, says Reuter.

This call for action was made in the "Regime Fascista," in which Signor Farinacci also urges the authorities to ensure the proper distribution of foodstuffs in order to prevent people standing in queues before shops, and declares: "Hoarders and speculators who sell goods for three or four times normal prices should be treated like criminals."

Finally, Signor Farinacci complains that party officials instead of reminding people of

Black Shirts In Backward Flight To Libya

(By Reuter's Special Correspondent With The Army Of
The Nile In The Western Desert)

THE BRITISH AND IMPERIAL TROOPS CONTINUED THEIR OFFENSIVE WITH SLEDGE-HAMMER VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT THURSDAY NIGHT AND LATEST REPORTS INDICATE AGAINST THE FLEEING AND DISORGANISED ITALIAN FORCES.

The Italian divisions, which so far have avoided capture and are now being driven back towards Libya, are in a difficult position, their backward flight being hampered by the bottleneck nature of the terrain.

"God has been with us throughout this action." It was a tough Air Force Commodo (Air Commodore Collinshaw, the Canadian who in the last war shot down over 60 Germans) who uttered this remark to me yesterday.

The battle was most carefully planned by all three Services and everything went just right throughout. The whole Italian supplies of food and oil, prepared for the invasion of Egypt, have been captured and will prove useful to our advancing forces.

Meanwhile the extent of Italian casualties and the amount of material captured cannot be assessed for several days yet.

I have spent two days chasing across the desert in trucks without seeing more Italian air activity than a stick of bombs dropping on an empty space from the only Italian planes we sighted.

Yet throughout this period, day and night, the sky echoed with the throbbing engines of British bombers and fighters who plastered Italian aerodromes and protected the advancing British troops.

Except for returning to base for more bombs the British pilots hardly paused.

Nevertheless this is the Army's show on, as one officer said: "It is the Army's Christmas present to the folks at home."

In less than one week the British Imperial Forces, including Highlanders and Indians, have chased five Italian divisions, including Black Shirts, from strongly fortified positions and have done this by a combination of sheer courage and ingenuity of tactics.

Italian Tribute

Most striking tribute to the British action was paid by Colonel Glusfreda, Chief of Staff to General Muletti, who was killed at Nidewa.

The colonel told officers who captured him: "The action was brilliantly conceived and even more brilliantly executed. We were completely taken by surprise."

Describing how operations began at Nidewa early on Monday, the Italian colonel said the British opened fire just before dawn.

PALERMON FALLS TO GREEKS

IT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED IN GREECE THAT THE ALBANIAN PORT OF PALERMON, 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF SANTI QUARANTA AND 35 MILES FROM VALONA, HAS BEEN TAKEN.

Palermon is not a first-class harbour, but it might have offered one line of escape for the Italians in the coastal sector.—Reuter.

Tanks Attack From Rear

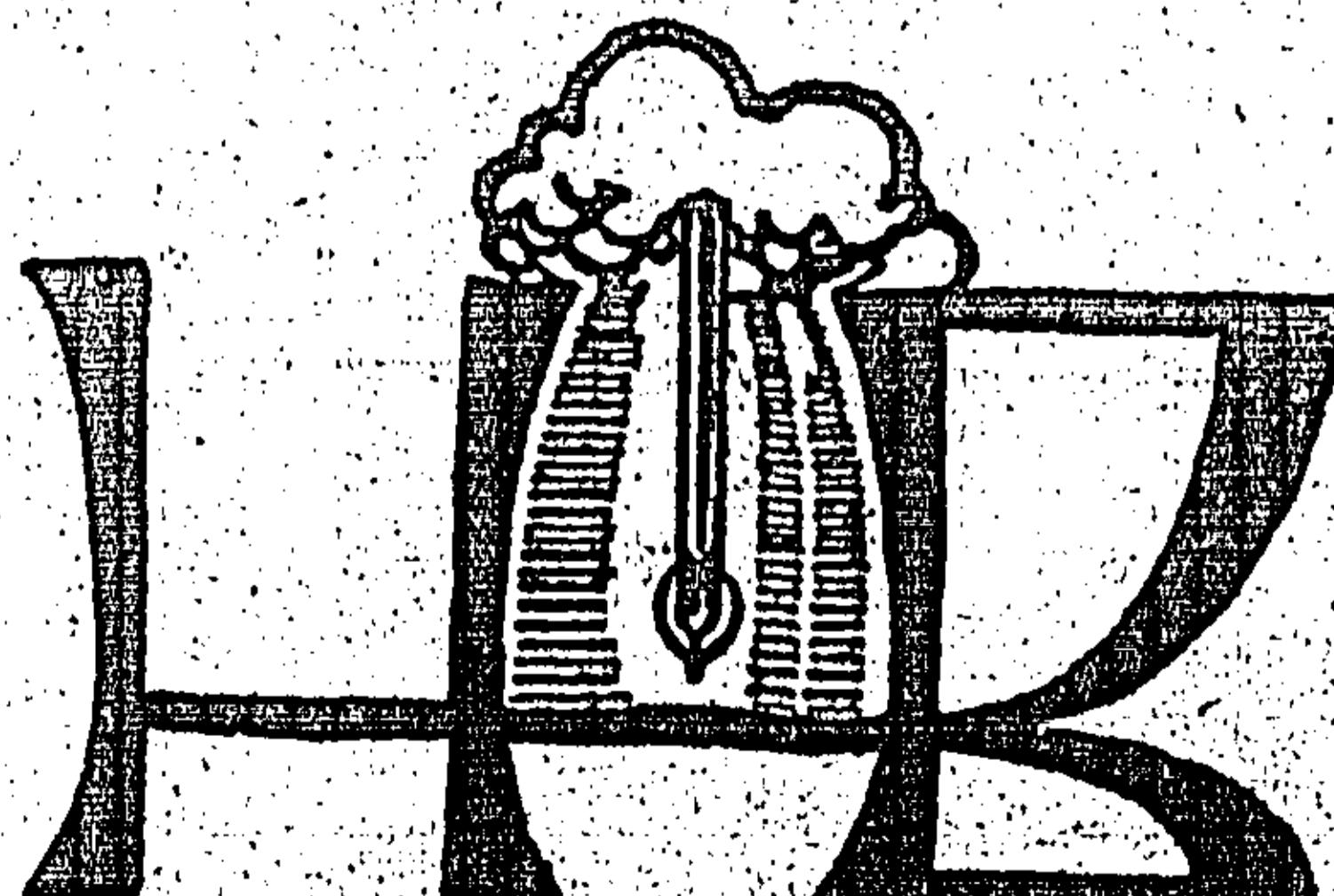
The Italian general sent out two patrol forces in front of their fort but they then heard British tanks rumbling up be-

hind them.

Immediately Nidewa had fallen the British forces reformed and attacked Tammar, a group of

(Continued on Page 16)

HAVE AN H.B.—



—AND THEN TRY!

Mussolini Provides Nazis With Food For Thought

Wavell Proves Enemy Superiority Only In Numbers

(By Reuter's Military Commentator)

THE SMASHING VICTORY BY THE BRITISH FORCES AROUND SIDI BARRANI HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL AS OF THE FIRST ORDER AND THAT IS NO EXAGGERATION. IT WILL GIVE OUR GERMAN ENEMIES TO THINK FURIOUSLY, AND THEY MUST ASK THEMSELVES IF THEIR MILITARY SUPERIORITY ON LAND IS BASED ONLY ON NUMBERS.

As a result of a masterly tactical plan, resolutely and rapidly executed, three Italian divisions have been destroyed. What remains to Marshal Graziani both in numbers and quality is the next question General Wavell has to answer and deal with.

Marshal Graziani may still have 10 divisions but it will probably be less as his numbers must include many on lines of communications and administrative units. And what of their quality?

Certainly, if this last battle may be taken as a guide, their training and military efficiency are not of a very high order. It is not yet possible to assess the extent of the Italian defeat. A complete collapse may ensue or Marshal Graziani may organise fresh forces to take up a new position and again offer battle.

Again it is quite likely that our troops may not be able to renew the attack at once for supplies of water, oil, ammunition and repair materials of all sorts must be brought up, but the Royal Air Force might make passage through the stiff and difficult defile at Sollum a very bloody operation for the Italians and the result might be greatly enhanced if the Navy can bring guns to bear from the sea.

Second Battle

If Marshal Graziani's forces can be sufficiently organised to fight again it will certainly be on the west of Sollum which is against the Libyan border.

The problem of General Wavell will then be to bring forward through the Sollum defile sufficient troops to enable him to repeat his great stroke.

In the meantime, the question of supply may be eased because of our command of the seas and a sufficiently good port exists on the coast.

In case of a second battle our general position is very favourable, for General Wavell can again count on naval help on

NORWEGIAN SEAMEN OB DURATE

THE FEAR THAT SHIPS MIGHT DISAPPEAR IN A "WESTERLY DIRECTION" HAS LED THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN NORWAY TO ORDER THAT VESSELS ENGAGED IN COASTAL TRADE SHALL ONLY BE SUPPLIED WITH ENOUGH FUEL TO REACH THE NEXT PORT, SAID THE NORWEGIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY YESTERDAY.

Difficulties have also arisen in manning the few ships engaged in this trade, for the pay is bad and the German-controlled Ministry of Shipping has ordered the Norwegian seamen's, officers' and engineers' unions to recall their members to Norway.

All three unions, it is stated, declined to comply and stuck to the refusal despite threats that their executives would be dismissed.—Reuter.

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METAXAS MESSAGE

CONGRATULATIONS ON BRITAIN'S SUCCESS WERE SENT YESTERDAY BY GENERAL METAXAS, THE GREEK LEADER, TO MR. CHURCHILL.

"I am convinced," aid the message, "that the development of this offensive will be of capital importance and mark a decisive stage in our struggle against Italy."

—Reuter.

A.T.S. NEEDS COMPLETE REFORMS

COMPLETE reorganisation of the A.T.S. and a clean-out of incompetent officers is recommended by the Select Committee on National Expenditure. The committee makes slashing criticisms, and says: "The best return for expenditure on the Service has not been and is not now being achieved.

Reorganisation of Service should be preceded by a demand for confidential reports on all officers, and necessary action should be taken on them. A board should be set up of senior representatives of each command to consider retention and promotion of all officers above a certain rank.

The home service ration scale is not suitable for women. Under the present scheme A.T.S. members are suffering hardship owing to shortage of milk and fruit, with they were able to buy previously under cash system."

Facts suggest that it is next to impossible to get a commission in the A.T.S. unless one has a distinctive social position thoroughly embedded in the huntin', shootin' and fishin' strata of society.

In one provincial area — it is typical, not an exception — there exists an extensive "Shadow Whitehall."

Competent volunteers and section leaders who have served since the beginning of the war are passed over for promotion in favour of women who have titles or have titled relatives.

Jobs Made For Them

Posts — on commissioned rank — are created for some of these women, with the result that small companies have redundant officers who are merely decorative.

The Group Commandant of this area is the wife of a lord, daughter-in-law of an earl and is herself born in the peerage,

DUKE OF WINDSOR TO SEE ROOSEVELT

The Duke of Windsor's destination is believed in Miami (Florida) to be Nassau harbour, where he will confer with President Roosevelt on general matters.

The Duke, who left Miami yesterday, was expected to return late last night.—Reuter.

DOCUMENT OF PIous HOPES

The pact of friendship and non-aggression concluded between Hungary and Yugoslavia follows expected lines.

It is one of those documents of pious hopes and platonic asseverations, writes Reuter's diplomatic correspondent, which in the pigeon-holes of the League of Nations number legion.

Even German propaganda, he adds, seems to realise its complete innocence, and suggests that the Yugoslav Foreign Minister will shortly visit Budapest, when an agreement of a more practical character will be reached.

Adroitness Of Belgrade

It is significant that most comments from abroad stress the fact that Hungary is seeking support in resisting Axis pressure rather than that Yugoslavia is being drawn closer to the Axis.

So far, indeed, Yugoslavia appears to have played her hand very adroitly. — Reuter.

THE KING THANKS MR. ROOSEVELT

His Majesty the King yesterday sent a message to President Roosevelt, thanking him for his message of sympathy on the death of Lord Lothian, British Ambassador to Washington.

The King also sent a telegram of condolence and sympathy to Lord Lothian's sister.

It was learned in London last night that arrangements for the funeral have not yet been completed.

It is reported in New York that it has been suggested that the Ambassador's body be sent back to Britain in an American cruiser.—Reuter.

3,000 FIRMS ANSWER TOOLS PLEA

Three thousand firms have responded to the appeal made by the Minister of Supply, for second-hand machine tools.

Offers of tools are increasing every hour and have come from firms large and small in all parts of the country. Some firms which have not made a definite offer have written to the Minister to say that they are complying with his request, and are replanning their shops so that they may be able to spare the largest possible number of machine tools.

One elderly woman wrote offering a box of household tools if the Ministry would send for them. The Minister is writing to explain that on this occasion only machine tools are required.

"OSLO FJORD" SUNK OFF NEWCASTLE

The Norwegian liner "Oslo Fjord" (18,000 tons) struck a mine and sank two days ago off Newcastle, England. It was reported in authoritative New York shipping circles yesterday.—Reuter.

GENERAL WAVELL CONGRATULATED

The Egyptian Prime Minister yesterday drove personally to British Headquarters, Cairo, to congratulate General Sir Archibald Wavell on behalf of King Farouk.—Reuter.

FIERCE NAVAL BOMBARDMENT

Fleet Has Things All Its Own Way In Coast Shelling

Watch On Supplies For Libyan Forces

(By Reuter's Special Correspondent on Board A

British Warship in a Western Desert Port)

HOW THE BRITISH Mediterranean Fleet has been cooperating with the British Army and Air Force in their victorious advance across the Western Desert towards the Libyan frontier, can now be told.

I am writing on board one of our units which participated in the bombardment of the coast and which, with other warships, is now anchored off a small Egyptian Western Desert port.

During the past few days thousands of bedraggled prisoners have been pouring into this base, providing tremendous food and transport problems and necessitating their speedy transfer by rail and car in order to make room for more.

The brilliant operational movement of our combined forces, which is driving the Italians into Libya, was initiated with the greatest secrecy.

There is no doubt the Italians were taken completely by surprise and purposely misled in regard to the direction the attack would take, by the sea bombardment of Sidi Barrani, the bombing of all Libyan aerodromes and what appeared to be a large land force prepared for a big-scale frontal attack.

Fierce Naval Bombardment

The British naval bombardment of the Italian forces in the Western Desert has been "fierce indeed," Reuter was informed in London naval circles yesterday.

Yet the ships carrying out this intensive bombardment have sustained no casualties.

In addition to playing an important part in assisting the Army and the Royal Air Force, the Navy is also keeping a ceaseless watch on Italian sea communication and it is becoming increasingly difficult for Italy to get convoys of supplies across to Libya.

It is not generally realised, according to naval circles, that the British Navy also substantially assisted the Greeks in their rapid mobilisation.

Many Greek reservists live on islands surrounding the mainland and it was the British Navy which enabled these men to be carried safely and rapidly to the mainland there to play a part in hammering Mussolini's armies in Albania.—Reuter.

CARETAKER CAN'T BE J.P.

Nine months after being appointed caretaker of their offices, Mr. Joseph Walker has been told by Newcastle Public Assistance Committee that he cannot continue to sit as a magistrate.

A leading Liberal and social worker in the city for many years, Mr. Walker was made a magistrate in 1935. Since then he has sat regularly on the bench.

"I cannot understand the committed's refusal," Mr. Walker told a reporter.

"My request was that I should be allowed to sit on the bench in my robe, which would mean my being away from the office for an hour or two, once every seven weeks."

"When I was appointed caretaker, I was told I would have to give up some of my public activities, but nothing was especially mentioned, and certainly not my position as a magistrate."

SHOT THROUGH WINDOW PUT OUT THE LIGHT

When he said, he could get no reply after knocking at the door of Mermaid Cottage, Old Bosham; the house of Lady North Elizabeth Legge, a soldier put a bullet through the window and broke a lamp which was showing too much light.

Private George Tipton said at Chichester County Police Court that the light, which shone on the ground, would be a landmark for enemy aircraft.

"When I could not make anyone hear, I kicked at the door and I believe I knocked a panel out," he said. He then put a bullet through the window.

A fine of £2. and 10s. costs was imposed on Lady Legge.

PARSON GOES TO GAOL

A clergyman fined £10 at Birmingham for improper conduct refused to pay the fine and elected to serve the alternative of thirty-one days' imprisonment.

He is the Rev. David Wynne Owen, forty, rector of St. John's, Wednesbury.

He left the dock and stood for a few moments talking to friends and shaking hands with them before returning to the dock to say to the officer:

"Please take me to prison."

Owen's defence was a complete denial. He agreed to being in certain streets in which the police said they had seen him, and stated that he was "so completely horrified by the whole thing" he had only a jumbled memory of what had happened.

LOVE LETTERS READ IN HOUSE SEARCH

Panic action by the authorities in searching private houses, and even reading people's love letters, was referred to in the Lords by Lord Strabolgi.

He understood there had been a hundred cases or more where houses had been searched up and down the country, and even love letters of newly-married couples had been read. This was "excessive zeal."

Vicount Simon said he agreed with Lord Strabolgi, but in times of crisis there was a risk that sometimes action might be taken at the expense of quite innocent people.

It might to be some extent inevitable, but there was nothing whatever in the Defence Regulations connected with the Bill which provided for anything of the kind.

OLD NOAH — FARMER'S BOY AT 96

Old Noah Parsons leaned heavily on his fork handle, wiped his glistening brow and turned to Young Jim.

"These be better taters than I've seen in fifty years," he said.

"Aye, granfer," agreed young Jim. "They be a nice crop."

And so they were happy on the Farm Where Age Doesn't Count.

At half-past eight in the morning Old Noah plodded the mile down the lane from his cottage home at Southwick, Sussex, at a speed that belied his ninety-six years.

He got to the farm and went in to report to the "Gaffer," Alfred Upton, aged eighty-eight.

Then he set about digging "taters." By lunch time a pile of 50lb. choice potatoes had been unearthed, selected and boxed.

Old Noah sighed, sat under an elderberry tree, ate his sandwiches and smoked his old briar. After half an hour's break he was back at work.

Then came an air raid warning.

Old Noah didn't hear it, went steadily on digging. I called to him.

"Dang those things," said Old Noah. "Why can't they let a man work in peace?"

The Life For Him

When he was ready to get down to it again, Young Jim Saunders, Noah's sixty-seven-year-old son-in-law and the "spare time boy" around the farm, turned up after a day's thatching, to give a hand.

Until nearly dusk, Old Noah and Young Jim went on with the work.

Instead of breaking off for tea, Old Noah spared a few minutes to show me round the farm.

Four acres of rich produce, beans, peas, marrows, cabbage, beet — every inch planted and tended by himself. In the orchard, tree after tree weighed down with crimson Permsans.

"It makes life worth living to see the crops coming along like this," Old Noah said. "I've been looking after this land twenty-five years now. I've been on the handle a farm."

"Some people say I'm too old just because I'm nearly a hundred. Don't take any notice of 'em. I can manage this all right. Work when I like, play when I like. That's me."

"I have me pipe of baccy, and a pint now and then, and I'm as happy as when I was ten."

"Young Jim comes along of night to give me a hand. He's a good lad and knows how to handle a farm."

"It used to be different when the Gaffer had more land. Young Jim and me and the Gaffer used to do it all. But they had to take a lot of the land to build on, and five years ago the Gaffer had to take to his bed."

A Pipe Together

"I go in and let him know how things are going and we have a pipe together. He's the manager — he tells me what to do and I do it."

Young Jim told me: "He's wonderful," he nodded. "Absolutely wonderful. His whole life is right here on the farm. He'd die if he had to give it up. Never a day does he miss. Winter and summer he comes along every morn. Sometimes he stays till dark if he's got a job like sowing which must be done."

"He had a bit of trouble with his knee and paid fifteen shillings for one of those new-fangled elastic bandages. He gets along better with it."

"He's a wonderful fellow."

Old Noah handed me a bag of apples as I left.

"Take these home for your wife, son," he said. "You just come back in ten years' time — I'll have some better ones for you then."

H.M.S. ENTERPRISE ARRIVES IN MONTEVIDEO

The British cruiser Enterprise arrived in Montevideo yesterday and is expected to remain about 48 hours.

Enterprise had previously been rumoured to be on the track of the Nazi raider which had a brush with Carnarvon Castle.—Reuter.

GOOD NEWS EXPECTED IN GREECE

The situation in Albania continues to develop favourably for the Greek army, according to the Greek Propaganda Ministry quoted in an Athens broadcast last night.

The spokesman is quoted as saying that in many points of the front the Italian Command has been replaced off-hand.

At two points on the front battles are raging which are turning completely to the advantage of the Greeks, and several strong points have been taken by Greek troops.

In the central sector an exceptionally important battle is progressing the issue of which will greatly influence further development of the war.

The spokesman added it is expected the Greek Command will be in a position to announce good news.—Reuter.

WEAR MASK ONCE A WEEK

It is still important that we should be prepared against gas. Sir John Anderson stressed this in a broadcast.

"You all have a gas-mask," he said, "and you ought to practice wearing it."

"Put it on for ten to fifteen minutes one day each week. It may be a little irksome at first, but you will soon get used to it, and it is very important that you should get accustomed to wearing it."

"If there is a gas alarm, after you have put on your mask you may think you can smell gas or feel a smarting in your eyes, nose or throat. Don't let that worry you; it will pass off in a few minutes. And whatever you do, don't take the mask off."

"It is possible that liquid gas may be sprayed from the air. This is another reason for keeping under cover in air raids."

Sir John said that quite serious fires started by incendiary bombs had been stopped by people with little training with nothing more than a stirrup pump and a few gallons of water.

Thousands of these pumps had been distributed for the use of house-holders' fire parties, and many more were on the way.

He added: "One final hint and quite an important one—in an air-raid you will probably find that the noise is very exhausting."

"Keep handy a tin with some pieces of cotton wool in it, each smeared with a little vaseline. Stuff one of them firmly, but not tightly, into each ear when the noise begins."

TAMPERED WITH BLACK-OUT BLINDS

For tampering with railway train window blinds that were designed to prevent light escaping from the train, Alexander Young, of Queen's Court, Church Road, Norwood, was fined £2, with two guineas costs, by Mr. Bertrand Watson at Lambeth Police Court, London.

Mr. Connolley, Southern Railway solicitor, said that Young was a passenger on the train which left Blackfriars at 9.17 p.m.

"Black-out" time was not until 9.35, but the blinds were drawn just before the train started. That operation could not very well have been done en route without delaying the train.

"He had a bit of trouble with his knee and paid fifteen shillings for one of those new-fangled elastic bandages. He gets along better with it."

"He's a wonderful fellow."

Old Noah handed me a bag of apples as I left.

"Take these home for your wife, son," he said. "You just come back in ten years' time — I'll have some better ones for you then."

GUNMEN CHASED IN KOWLOON

Shantung Constable P.C.D. 288, attached to the Shamshui Po Police Station, had a narrow escape yesterday afternoon, when he tried to arrest an armed Chinese at Kilung Street.

The constable was off duty at the time and was without his revolver. Acting on information he approached two Chinese in Kilung Street about 4 p.m. and challenged them to stop.

One of the men drew a revolver and fired a shot at the constable, but missed. The men then ran and the constable gave chase.

When near Boundary Street, another constable, P.C.D. 134, who was on patrol, joined in the chase and fired a shot at the men. The armed man, Cheng Wan, 21, was apprehended after a long chase, while the other man made good his escape.

A revolver with four rounds of ammunition was found in possession of the captured man.

It is understood that the man will be charged at the Kowloon Magistracy this morning.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE "GAZETTE"

The following appointments are notified in the "Government Gazette" this morning.

Mr. R. D. Gillespie to be a Member of the Volunteer Advisory Committee.

Mr. L. J. Davies to be a Member of the Committee to administer the Mercantile Marine Assistance Fund of H.K.

Mr. E. M. Bryden resumed his appointment as a member of the Board of War Taxation.

Miss E. S. Atkins to be a Member of the Board of Education for a further period.

Mr. C. A. Owen to be Acting Sub-Lieut. in the H.K.N.V.F.

Mr. F. A. Xavier recognised as Honorary Consul for Mexico at H.K.

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A FOUR-CAST OF GREAT ENTERTAINMENT!

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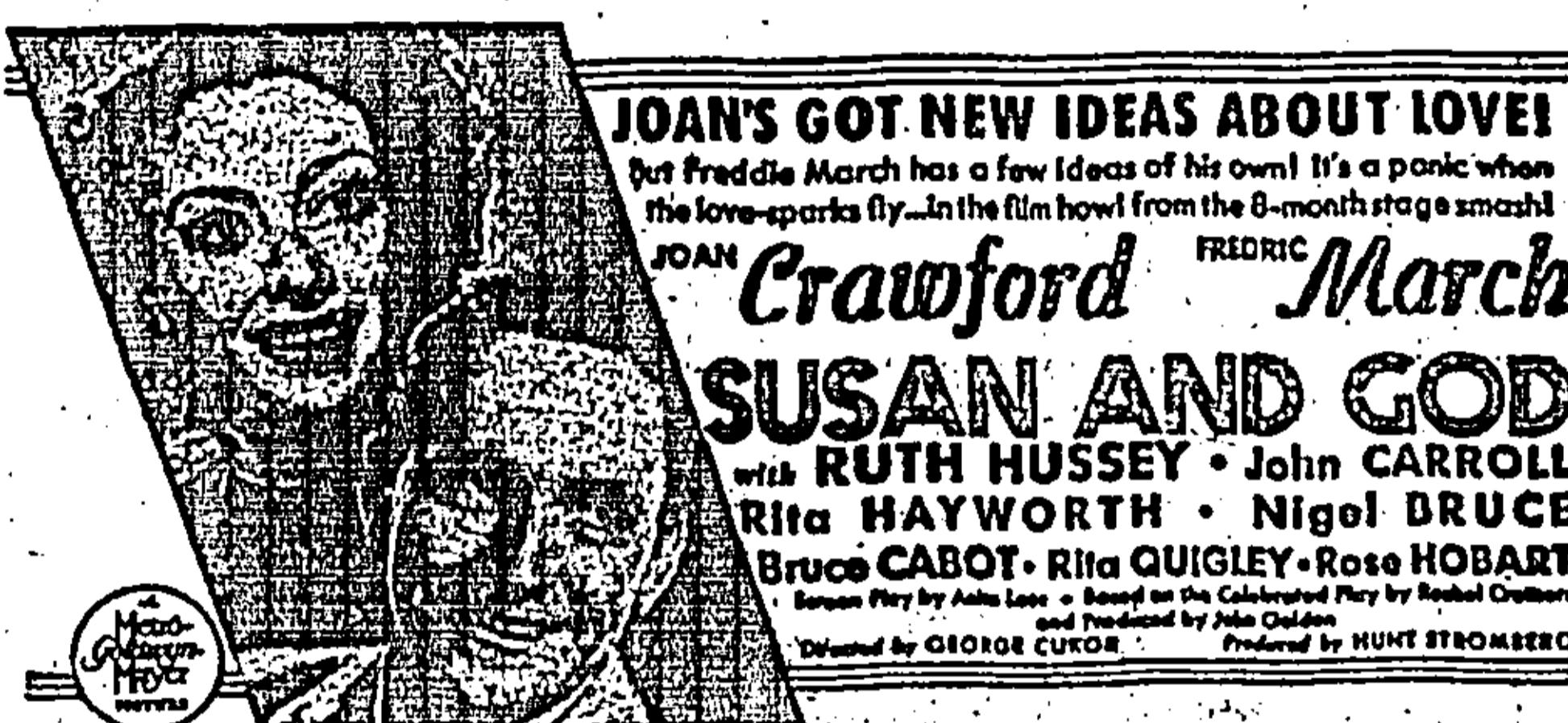
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DAILY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.
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* FINAL SHOWINGS TO-DAY *

The Grandest — Gayest Entertainment — In Years!

A Joan Crawford You've Never Seen Before! Gay! Giddy! Grand! But . . . saint or screwball . . . it's a film panic to top its 8-month Broadway stage smash! It's the merry, witty and delirious drama that tells what "The Women" didn't!



* COMMENCING TO-MORROW *
THE HAPPIEST SHOW YOU'LL SEE THIS YEAR!

ANNA NEAGLE and RAY MILLAND
in the sparkling musical romance**IRENE**

with Roland Young — May Robson — Billie Burke
An RKO Radio Super-Production

STAR THEATRE
HANKOW RD, KOWLOON DAILY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20, 9.20 TEL 57795

* FINAL SHOWINGS TO-DAY *

"DOWN WENT MC GINTY"

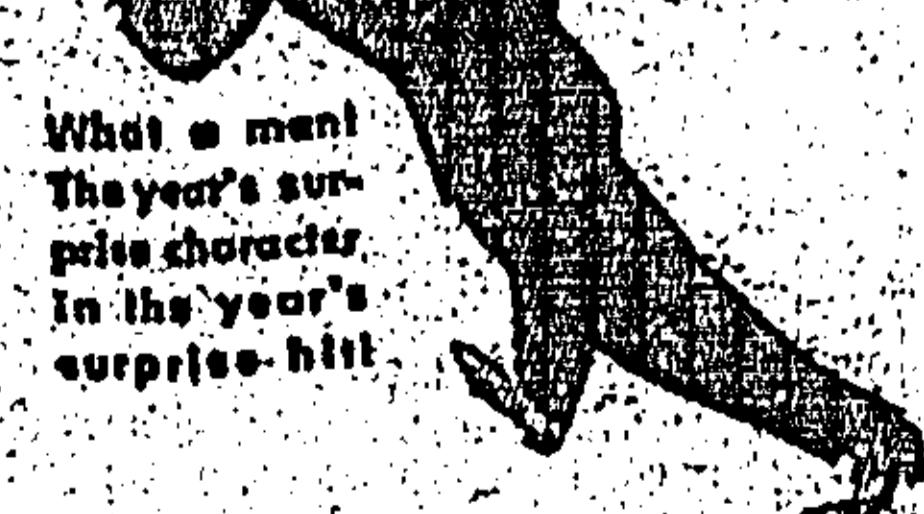
A Paramount Picture

with

BRIAN DONLEVY

AKIM TAMIROFF

MURIEL ANGELUS



What a man!
The year's surprise character.
In the year's surprise hit!

TO-MORROW ■ SPENCER TRACY — HEDY LAMARR
MGM Picture ■ in "I TAKE THIS WOMAN"

If You Are Too Busy To Write Home — Don't

Just Post a Copy of the

Overland China Mailwhich gives all the news there is —
Both Local and Coastal

TWO MORE ITALIAN GENERALS ADDED TO THE BAG

THE NUMBER OF Italian prisoners taken in the Western Desert has been increased by several thousands; they include two further generals commanding divisions.

Reuter's correspondent in the Western Desert reports that all supplies of food and oil which the Italians accumulated for the invasion of Egypt have been captured. They will prove most useful to the advancing British forces.

In less than a week the British forces have chased five Italian divisions out of strongly fortified positions.

Hurricane pilots report they had seen large fires raging in Sollum and a long column of motorised vehicles hurrying back through Libya towards Tobruk.

Italian 10th Army have been seen moving out of Bardia in the direction of Tobruk.

Most of the Italian prisoners captured appear numb and bewildered. The majority are completely ignorant of the course of events in Greece.—Reuter.

Numbled Prisoners

These pilots, it is now revealed, carried out 67 attacks behind the Italian lines in their eight-gunned fighter aircraft in the first three days of the attack.

Advance headquarters of the

BRIGADE 60 MILES TO FIRE

Many people laughed at Teddy Martin when he started the Newbury volunteer fire brigade. "It would be quicker to get an engine from London," they said.

But Teddy lived to see the day—twenty-five years later—when his brigade went sixty miles to help to put out a fire in London.

For Chief Officer Edward Martin's men had become expert fire fighters.

So when the bell rang and the firemen cycled through the streets, people in Newbury asked, "Where's the fire?" But nobody knew.

Then Teddy gave the answer with a smile—"London."

With Thames-side on fire, Londoners sent out a regional call and the little market town of Newbury, sixty miles distant, was, thanks to Ted Martin, one of the first to answer it.

"We were the only volunteer fire brigade there," Teddy told a reporter, "and our engine was the biggest of the fifteen provincial brigades called out with us."

"It only took us two hours to reach our station. The organisation was magnificent."

"They gave us a hydrant right away and in two minutes the boys were pouring water on a blazing factory."

"They worked all night and came back here in the morning. They have got to get on with their own jobs now."

Teddy looked disgusted. "I couldn't go. The Chief Officer has to stay in the town, but the boys were wonderful. I bet they went up quicker than anyone could get down here."

It didn't occur to him that the credit for the boys being there at all should go to the man who stayed behind.

OBJECTORS' WIVES TO GO

Leicester Cooperative Society has decided to dismiss the wife of any conscientious objector in its employ, and not to employ such women.

Conscientious objector employees have been offered work on the company's farm at farm wages, continuation of present employment at rates based on Army pay, with children's allowances for married men, or to be discharged and reinstated at the end of the war.

The balance of pay of any objector accepting Army rates will be allocated to a fund to be disposed of as decided when hostilities cease.

Mr. J. H. Gouds, managing secretary, said that one objector had agreed to accept the Army rates.

Mr. Gouds further stated that no woman employee is involved. One objector's wife had been employed, but when the committee made its decision she was not an employee.

* FINAL SHOWINGS TO-DAY *

A Frantically Funny Romantic Comedy!

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and "SKIPPER", the stowaway baby who scuttles the war games . . . and runs a romance ragged!

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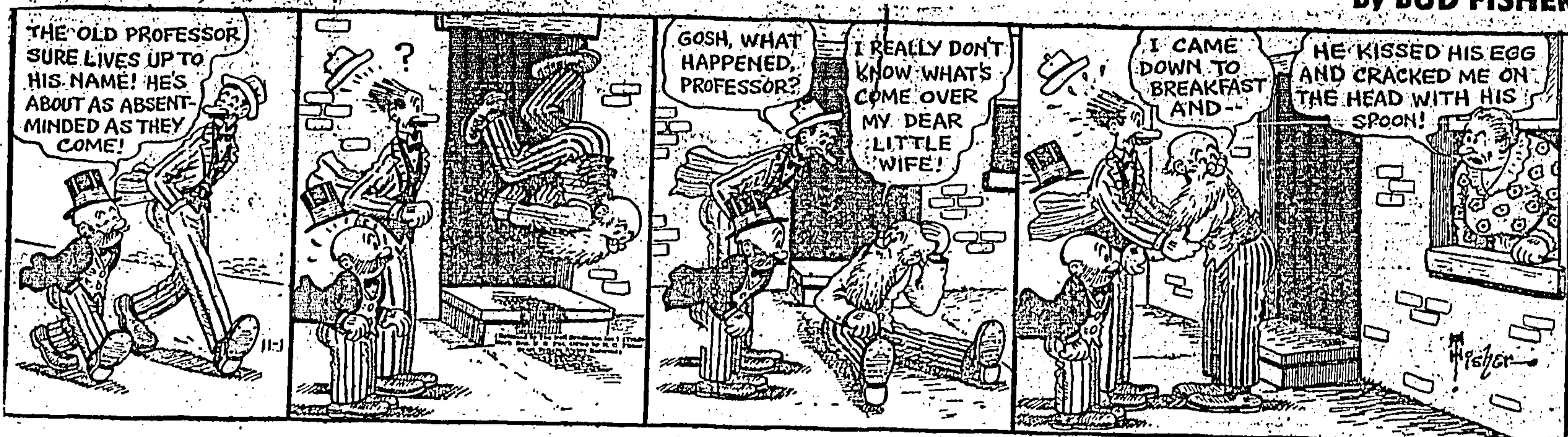
COMMENCING TO-MORROW! THE YEAR'S WILDEST, WITIEST WHIRLWIND OF A LOVE AND LAUGH SHOW!



Screen play by CHARLES LUDWIG
A COLUMBIA PICTURE

By BUD FISHER

MILT AND JEFF



BATTERED TANKS ARE NOW "GOOD AS NEW"

A large works in the Midland which was formerly the home of a popular racing car, is one of a number of factories which have been taken over by the Ministry of Supply for the re-conditioning of tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles.

A number of vehicles were tested under severe Service conditions in the presence of officials of the Ministry and Press representatives.

They underwent their trials with complete success. They were driven over ditches, scrubs, and steep hills, one of which had a gradient of nearly one in one. In every case the obstacles were easily overcome.

A large proportion of the "casualties" have seen service with the B.E.F.

Every tank when it arrives at the works is stripped of its thousands of parts, and if any damaged ones are repairable the greatest care is taken to ensure that this is done.

A reporter was shown a vehicle brought in for repairs. It was so severely damaged that it was regarded as a total wreck.

It has now been amazingly transformed and is ready for further service.

An officer who has been with a tank regiment since 1918 was particularly proud of the achievement of the factory with this

casually. He emphasised that the research department had been specially successful during the past twelve months, and it was now possible to make a useful job with welding where previously it would not have been effective.

"After tanks have been reconditioned in one of these factories they are to all intents and purposes as good as new," he said.

CHRISTMAS CABLES

Cable and Wireless inform us that in order to ensure delivery of Christmas Greeting Telegrams on Christmas Day every effort should be made by senders to file their messages in Hong Kong as soon as possible, before December 20 if possible.

Owing to wartime restrictions, greeting telegrams can be sent only to places in the British Empire, including, of course, Australia, where there are now so many Hong Kong families. The rate to all parts of the Empire is \$4 for 12 words. Messages to and from members of the Forces are accepted at the rate of \$2 for 6 words, the address being free.

PREACHERS' UNION IS PLANNED

A Trade Union for ministers of all denominations and paid church workers is being planned.

It will be on constituted Trade Union lines, so that it may become affiliated to the Trades Union Congress.

The Rev. Robert Doble, vicar of St. Saviour's, Forest Hill, S.E., who proposes the formation of the Union, said that he had been in touch with trade-union authorities regarding the proper basis on which it should be built so that its members could work with other trade unionists towards a common objective.

"Our idea," he said, "is to show that we have an identity of interest with the workers."

Low-Paid Curates

"In addition, the need for a protective organisation for ministers is very real, particularly in the case of curates and others whose rate of pay is so small as to compel them to come within the scope of health and unemployment insurance.

"Already I have received considerable encouragement for the idea in Labour circles. I have written to a thousand clergymen and ministers whom I know to be sympathetic.

"The Union will be definitely undenominational.

LATEST TYPE OF NAZI BOMBER DOWN

A Junkers 88, brought down at Bosham, Sussex, after a Spitfire had finished off anti-aircraft guns' initial crippling, was found to be of the newest make, not more than four months old.

It is believed to have taken part in a long raid, probably over the London area, as it came from that direction and its petrol tank was almost empty. On its fuselage was painted an emblematic red dragon.

It fell close to the railway after colliding with telegraph wires. The crew of four were taken prisoner by soldiers.

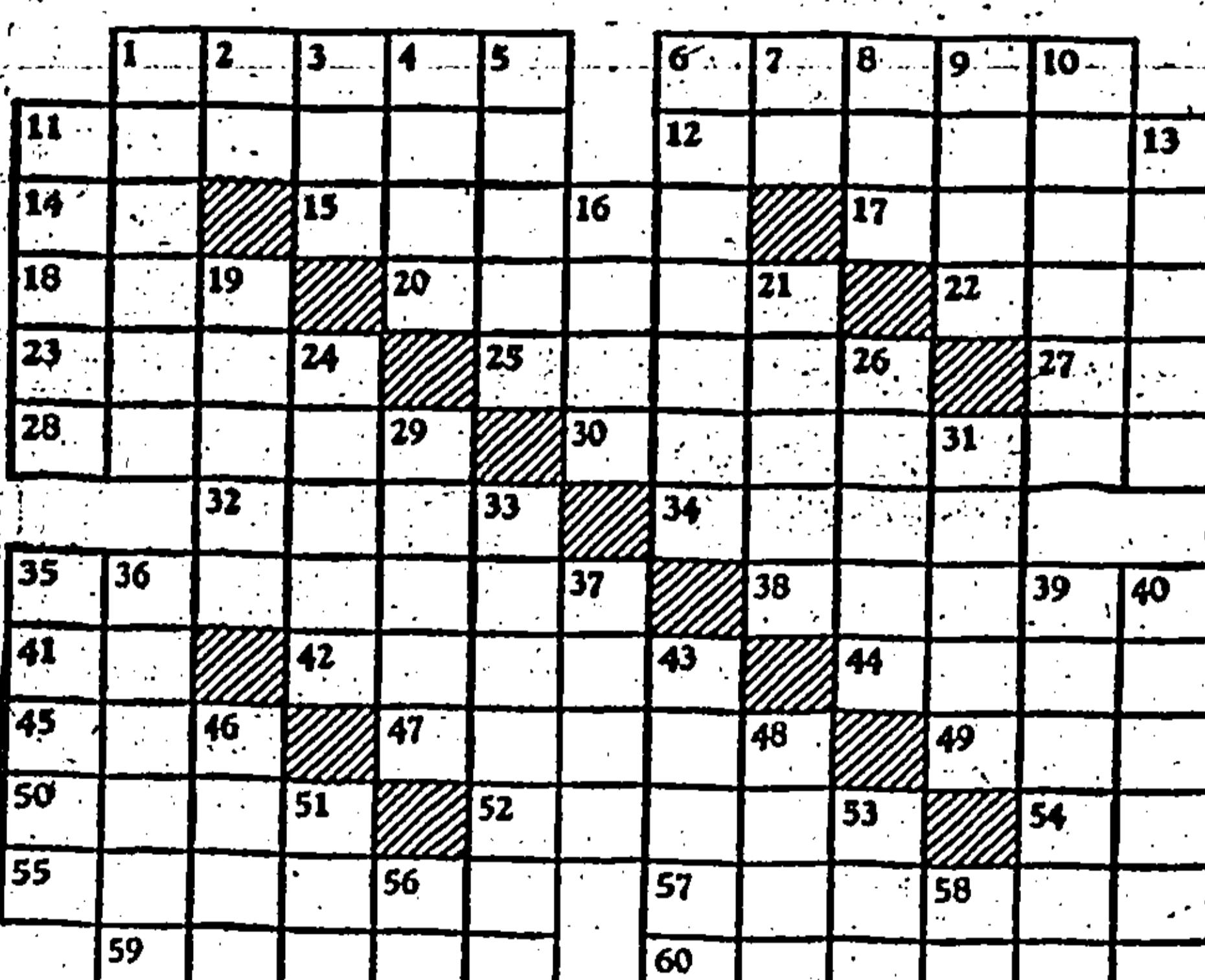
BONFIRE BLAZE IN BLACK-OUT.

Charged at Woking with displaying a light at midnight, George Pownall, Horsell Park, Woking, was fined £5.

A police-officer stated that on ground adjoining the cottage was a bonfire 10 feet by six feet wide, ablaze.

In a letter Pownall said the bonfire had been out for nearly a fortnight.

OUR 10-MINUTE CROSS-WORD



HORIZONTAL

- Stringed instrument.
- Fascination.
- Foot apparel.
- Depends.
- Part of "to be".
- To compel.
- Whirlpool.
- Goddess of the harvest.
- To escape.
- Norse.
- Poverty.
- Prophet of Jehovah.
- 101.
- Mistake.
- Ancient European country.
- To worry.
- Prefix - half.
- Dwells.
- Ship's crane.
- Hypothetical force.
- Closely-woven silk fabric.
- Moslem Judge.
- To enter.
- Lowest point.

- To recline.
- Fresh-water porpoise.
- Ethiopian title.
- Conjunction.
- Large ante-lope (var.).
- Chooses.
- Grade.
- California rockfish.
- 42 To be borne by.
- 10 Ancient Florentine family.
- 2 Preposition.
- 3 To sum up.
- 4 Son of Loki.
- 5 Yellowish green.
- 6 Believes.
- 7 Pronoun.
- 8 Beverage.
- 12 To spoil.
- 13 River in France.
- 14 Asiatic country.
- 15 Farewell.
- 16 Hirselings.
- 17 Auriculate.
- 18 Girl's name.
- 19 Dye plant.
- 20 Part of a fortress.
- 21 Opponent.
- 22 Lockjaw.
- 23 Red-breasted bird.
- 24 Paraisiacal.
- 25 Faction.
- 26 Feeble-minded persons.
- 27 Rows.
- 28 River in Africa.
- 29 Breathing organ of a fish.
- 30 Turkish officer.
- 31 Japanese coin.
- 32 While.
- 33 Symbol for calcium.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION.

SPEE	ALIAS	APE
BANDEROLE	ROLE	LER
BIRDE	BOTTLED	RA
DARK	EAR	RA
JAS	STIRE	EIR
AVA	LAIR	GHAT
MAG	SIV	ORA
BILEND	SONG	M
REE	FEELS	
TIS	PROD	TATAR
VORTIC	CRS	RAMA
ELI	DARE	DEVIL
ADD	BEATE	EEDE

VERTICAL

- 10 Ancient Florentine family.
- 11 River in France.
- 13 Asiatic country.
- 15 Farewell.
- 16 Hirselings.
- 17 Auriculate.
- 18 Girl's name.
- 19 Dye plant.
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THE CHINA MAIL, DECEMBER 14, 1940.

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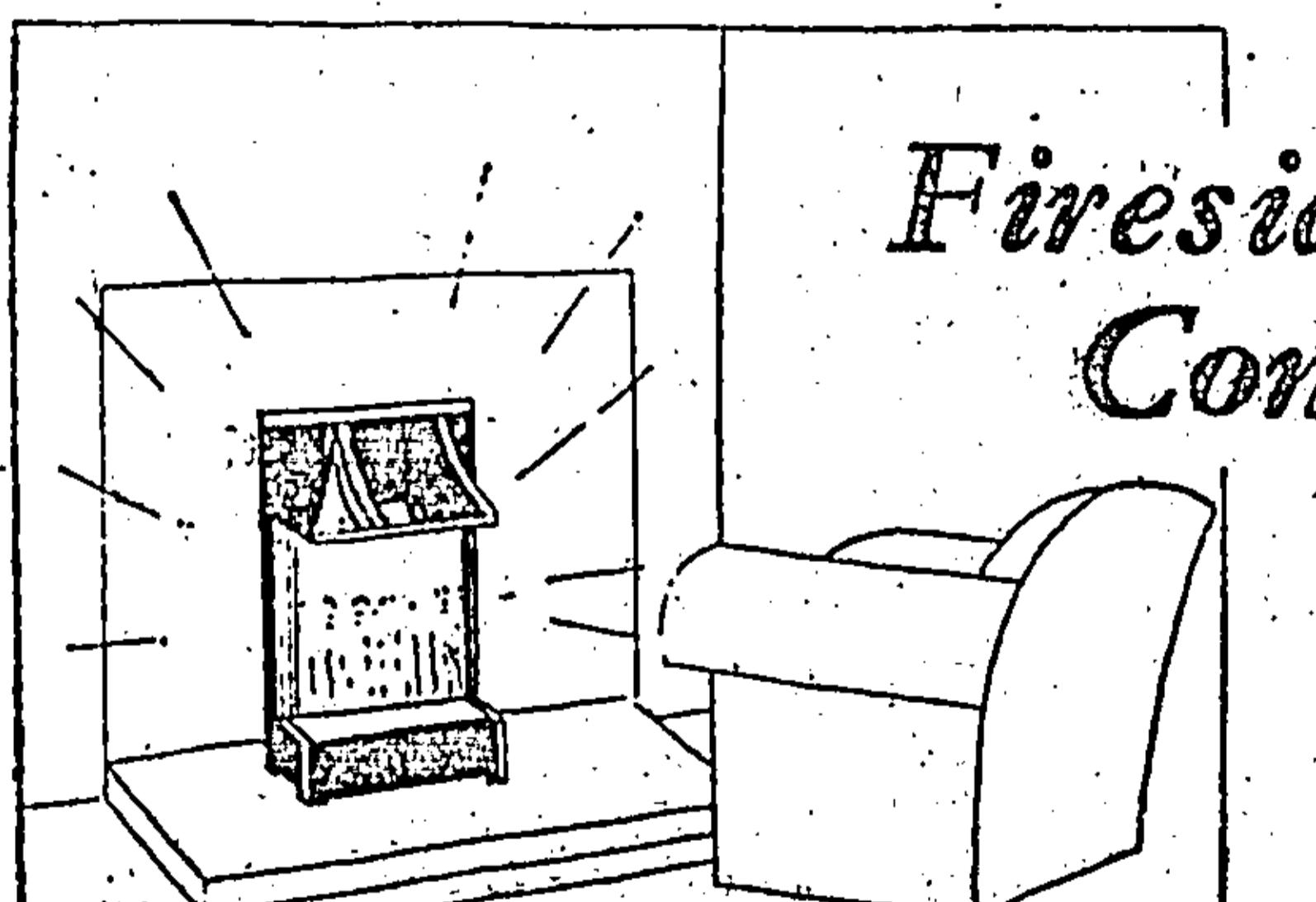
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WOMEN RACE TO WATCH AN AIR BATTLE

(By A Correspondent)

NAZI BOMB-BLASTING may shake the homes, but not the spirit and morale of those thousands of people on the South-East Coast, who daily have the war brought to their very doorsteps.

I have had proof of that after a visit to towns where residents had "grand stand" views of a big-scale air attack on a British convoy. You have to see and hear these people during air raids to realise what "high morale" really means. I know now.

Let me tell you of a woman who watched from her flat window high on the cliffs the fierce-fighting almost over her head and out in the Channel over the convoy.

It is the same all round the nose of the coast. Dance halls, cinemas, hotels and restaurants carry on as usual, and there has to be violent gun-fire before anyone thinks of taking any sort of shelter.

Crazy it may be, but I actually saw people rush into their houses when a raid started and dash out with bicycles to go to the cliffs and watch.

On the cliffs, watching two German planes chased away by the A.A. guns, I talked to a London woman of 65.

"Are we worried about the raids? Not on your life. I promote whist drives here every night," she explained, and no German bombing will get us away from it once we have settled down. There are no 'chitneys' here!"

It was more with amusement than anything else that people watched a police car patrolling the streets advising them on amplifiers to leave the town.

"We are doing nothing of the kind," indignantly exclaimed an elderly man living almost on the edge of the cliff. We pay no attention to it. Leave the town? Why people who did go out of it soon after the war broke out are returning every day."

So much for the effect any of the Nazi raids or convoy attacks are having on the community.

As one woman tersely put it, "If there are any defeatists about the country, send them down here. They'll soon be cured!"

BACK TO THE STAGE AT 81

Favourites of the music-halls in Victorian days, Mr. and Mrs. C. Emlyn-Jones, aged 80 and 81 respectively—known as the Stage Darby and Joan because they acted together for more than 40 years—are to stage a come-back.

They are to give a number of performances at a Harrow theatre to help war charity. In the last war they emerged from their retirement for a similar purpose.

The couple, who are now living in retirement at Denville Hall, a home for aged actors and actresses at North Wood, staged the first concert party to be held in Britain—at Merthyr, in 1875.

They claim to have sung in every concert hall in London, and Mr. Emlyn-Jones has played at Covent Garden, the Royal Albert Hall, and the Crystal Palace with Patti, Sims Reeves and Edward Lloyd.

Mrs. Emlyn-Jones formed the Welsh Ladies' Choir, with whom she toured the country for 18 years.

"It is 30 years since we retired," they said. "There will be few people alive who remember us, but in the olden days we were two of the favourites."

WOMEN 'CATCH' BALLOON

When a barrage balloon, which had broken away from its moorings, landed in Richmond Road, Tottenham, men and women ran from their homes and caught hold of the drifting ropes.

They held the balloon and prevented it damaging surrounding property until R.A.F. men arrived.

SPEED-BOAT GOES TO IT

SEVENTEEN HOURS OF THRILLS AT SEA

ADVENTURES OF an R.A.F. Coastal Command 60ft. speed launch during 17 hours' duty in the English Channel were described in an Air Ministry bulletin.

It picked up seamen from a sinking ship.

Towed lifeboats with other survivors to a naval vessel.

Searched for German airmen shot down in an air battle; and was

Machine-gunned by nine Nazi aircraft, which killed the wireless operator, twice wounded a sergeant, and started three fires with incendiary bullets.

Its final adventure was when it found its propellers fouled, freed one of them, and then drifted until towed into port by a lifeboat.

The launch went out at 10 a.m. to seek an aircraft believed to be in the sea. It got back to its base at three o'clock next morning.

14 Men Rescued

From ships' lifeboats it took on board 14 injured men, and took three of the boats in tow in a rough sea.

It cruised about the Channel until a naval vessel was found, to which the injured men and those in the boats were transferred.

The sea became worse, but guided by a Bredheim bomber the launch kept up the search for other survivors over a wide area until late afternoon. On the way home it observed 40 or 50 enemy aircraft bombing some merchant ships.

Two other German machines were soon shot down by British fighters. The launch altered

course in an effort to save the Nazi crews, when nine German fighters raked the unprotected craft with machine-gun fire.

The wireless operator was killed in his cabin, and a sergeant was severely wounded. The hull was hit by more than 100 bullets, many incendiary. These started three fires, but each was got under control.

The nine enemy fighters attacked repeatedly, three times firing on the launch on both sides, almost at mast height.

British fighters arrived and drove off the enemy planes, one of which crashed in the sea.

Drifting Helplessly

It was found that the three engines of the launch were stopped. An aircraftman dived into the sea to clear the fouling of the propellers. The Aldis signalling lamp and the wireless set had been so damaged that communication was impossible. Distress signals were unobserved. The helpless launch was drifting away from the English coast in the dusk.

The signalling lamp was repaired, and messages flashed about the Channel. A Roc aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm came over and indicated that a rescue boat was on the way.

Then a lifeboat from Bembridge, Isle of Wight, arrived, and just before dawn the small R.A.F. vessel, which had begun its day towing lifeboats, was itself towed in to its base.

CHINA MAIL
WINDSOR HOUSE

GENERAL HERTZOG

General Hertzog who resigned in a huff from the leadership of the Re-united Nationalist Party has now resigned his membership of Parliament and retired from further political activity. No-one will question the wisdom of the decision.

The parting of the ways between General Hertzog and his following occurred when the latter refused to adopt General Hertzog's programme providing equal rights for English-speaking and Afrikaans-speaking people. The racial division between these two sections of the people has been for the last quarter of a century a contested issue in South African politics. Fusion was temporarily achieved in 1932-33 by the Nationalist followers of General Hertzog and General Smuts' South African Party forming the United Party which governed the country till the outbreak of the war.

When the Union declared war against Hitler, General Hertzog was succeeded by General Smuts as Premier. The Hertzog and Malan Opposition thereupon set itself to wreck the Government's War Measures Bill — but failed. The Smuts Cabinet, on the other hand, daily gained strength by its efficiency and the restraint with which it met obstructionist tactics. General Hertzog's hopes of a political come-back were chiefly based on the possible defection of the Afrikaners who have joined General Smuts on the war issue. The split in the opposition has therefore strengthened the hands of General Smuts.

Meanwhile the party of which General Hertzog was leader is embarking on a course described by him as the road to perdition. He has himself got out in time to regain some of the respect he lost in pursuit of narrow anti-war extremism.

These views on the possibility of a German invasion of Britain appeared in "News Review" (London) of September 5:

Can it be sanely said that Britain is once more ignoring the lessons of its own history by waiting for an invasion which may not come?

The Prime Minister is a wise man, but is it possible that he is following the example of previous British rulers who have been mistaken as to the chances of invasion? Or does he seek by his almost non-stop reiteration of the Don't Relax warning to keep Britons on the alert, knowing that the threat of invasion is the best possible incentive to high-speed production?

Such speed of production is essential for the plans of a Britain which definitely intends some day to turn and rend the aggressor in his own country, and in the countries which he has conquered.

Every single piece of evidence for and against the chances of invasion is laid on the Cabinet table.

The biggest straw in the wind which indicates that it may come is the intense training of German Army units for attack against strongly fortified shore positions. Nazi troops are being trained, it is said, in the use of rowing boats and in climbing the high cliffs of Brittany, where the coastal strips and high cliffs are twin brothers to those of England, having in dim history been joined together by nature's act of union.

Hitler apparently believes that Britain's coastal defences have weak outposts with heavily-fortified hills close behind them, for in mock attacks carried out by German Army units near Dunkirk and in other places, the first-line defences were dismissed as easily overcome. Using heavy mortars, anti-tank guns and machine-guns, the brave invaders walked boldly up the beaches and then settled down to a "hard struggle" for the hills behind, which soon fell, of course, before the invincible military might of Germany.

The Nazi intelligence men cannot therefore be doing their job over-well, for the British defences-in-depth begin at the pebble nearest the salt water, and end nowhere in the country.

A funny picture is conjured up by news that German troops are taking mass instruction in breast-stroke swimming along the Baltic coast. By the left, ein, zwel, ein, zwel . . .

Funnier still is the report that Nazi soldiers are learning to use the bag-pipes captured from the 51st Highland Division which was surrounded at Saint Valery, presumably in order to swing their way through Scotland un-noticed. How would a kiltsed goose-step look!

On the sea, Germany seems to be holding her naval vessels in reserve for Der Tag. Not overmuch is heard of the U-boats, and even less of the much-vaunted E-boats, or fast M.T.B.s. Germany is reported to be massing large numbers of flat-bottomed scows fitted with engines and capable of carrying 38 men each. These scows are stacked in bigger ships, one on top of another like half-pint glasses piled ready for use, and would be floated from the mother ships about 15 miles off shore. They are not thought capable, however, of transporting even light tanks, or other mechanical equipment.

If Germany intends to use tanks against Britain, she must leave some ports undamaged, with good quays upon which the tanks may be unloaded. Oddly enough,

the ports of Dover and Folkestone have had their unloading facilities left untouched. Deliberately? Or because the Nazi pilots are unable to hit them anyway?

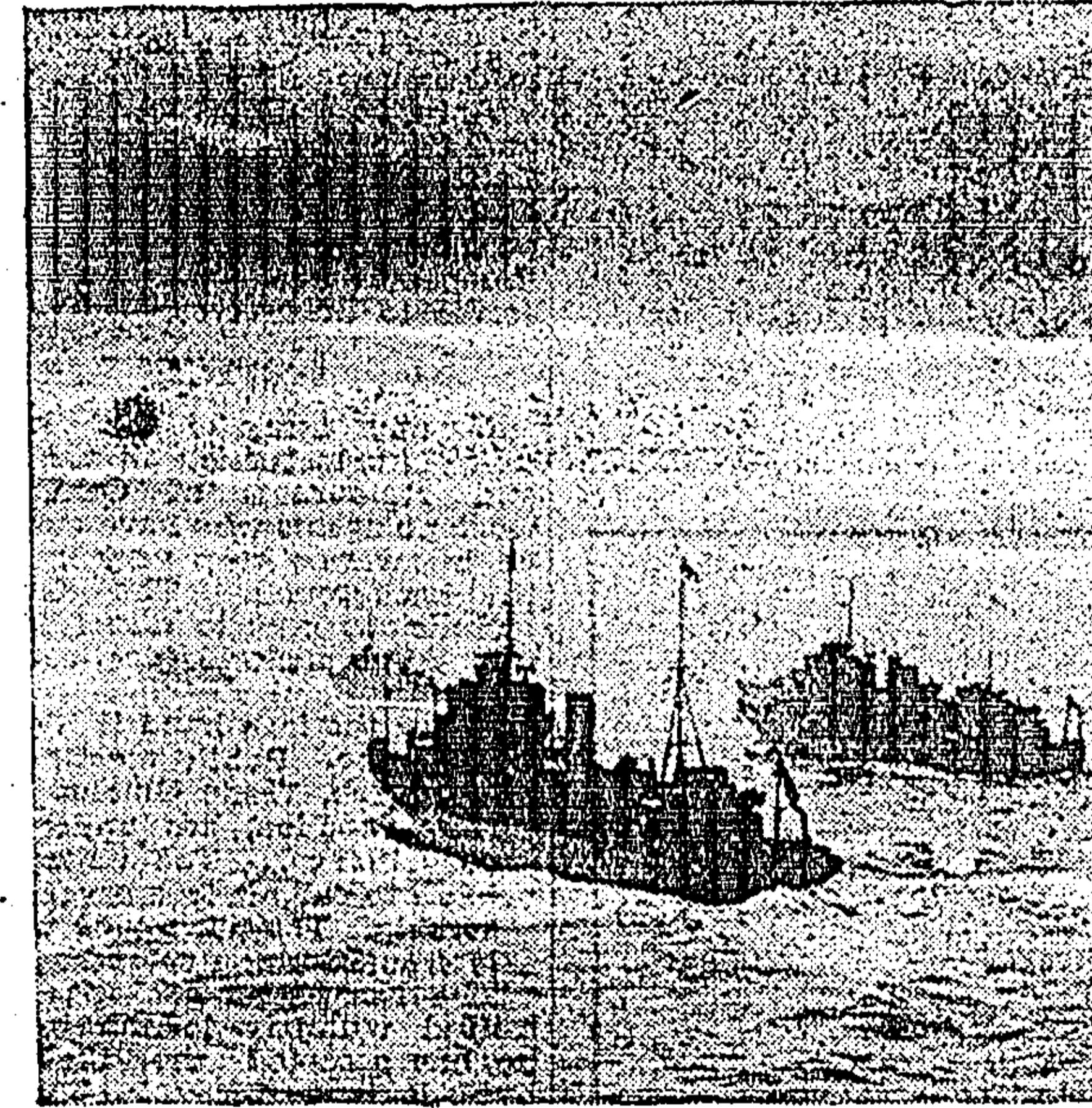
Germany's most powerful striking-weapon has already been thrown into the Battle of Britain. Whether they are out to blockade the island kingdom, or to test its air defences, Nazi pilots have been attacking steadily since August 8. Back at home, the training of parachutists has continued, Berlin boasting that its paratroops will not miss the signposts which have been removed because "they each have three cases of maps and plans."

The appearance over Britain for the first time recently of a four-engined machine seems also to indicate that the Nazis intend to try to land troops from the air, and are testing out their transport planes to see how they will get

anywhere on the invasion coastline. A story that "five divisions of troops reported to be massed on the French beaches opposite the south-east coast ready to be embarked for an attempted invasion were bombed and completely disorganized by the R.A.F." was emphatically denied by the Air Ministry.

Private individuals and military men watching the French coast through powerful glasses and telescopes say that they can sometimes see old fortification works and small troop movements going on, but on nothing like the scale necessary for an invasion.

During the past few weeks concentrations of troops in Norway have even been moved back to Germany again. German soldiers still live and sleep on 30 or 40-ton fishing smacks moored near Trondheim, apparently to accustom themselves to sea conditions and overcome sea-sickness. A sea-sick army landing on the British coast would certainly be



through the British defences. The only Luftwaffe aeroplanes to sport four engines, apart from seaplanes, are the Junkers 89 and 90, and the Focke-Wulf Condor, all capable of carrying troops, but also fitted as bombers.

Thousands of new gas sprays and containers intended to be dropped from the sky have been built by the Germans. The gas they contain is of the arsenical type successfully used against the Liege forts, but rendered harmless by the new fittings on civilian masks.

Invitations have gone forth from the Berlin Propaganda machine to journalists in many European countries—especially Spain—to go to the Channel coast and cover the invasion of Britain.

Tucked safely away in Katowice, German-occupied Poland, Nazi Liar Josef Goebbels snarls: "Various British voices have been raised recently which give the impression that London is getting impatient of waiting for it. The German Army will give a smart answer to these eager gentlemen at a given time the Führer determines the right hour."

Napoleon also talked of the given time, and of the right hour.

The British Secret Service knows well what it is about, and a major concentration of troops anywhere could not remain undetected by it. From its reports, authoritative London circles state that no evidence whatever has come to hand indicating that an invasion is imminent, or that there are large concentrations of troops

too easy for any sporting British commander to attack.

But many of the troops have returned to Danzig, Stettin and other German ports in the large Baltic steamers which were to have been used for the invasion. Training in attacks against rocky coasts have practically ceased in this war arena, possibly because ten per cent. of the men being trained to jump off cliffs on horseback and swim out to sea became casualties.

Other indications that Germany does not intend invasion immediately are many. One that has created some interest is an announcement by the German authorities that their aircraft have mined several British harbours. Such mine-laying would hamper German invasion moves.

Similarly, Hitler seems to have spilt his own plans by opening fire with some of the guns which he has ranged along 50 miles of the French channel coast. These guns were to have been used to provide a barrage-flanked corridor across the Channel down which invading transports would pass (N.R. August 29). The positions of these batteries would not be given away until the arrival of Der Tag, but when the guns opened up in an abortive series of attacks on British convoys and coastal towns, the R.A.F. were soon able to locate them by their flashes.

Unless they are more examples of Nazi trickery, the arguments now being produced in the German Press would seem to indicate that Germany does not intend invasion. These articles claim that the German Army Command has never had any idea of attacking Britain on its own soil, and that the various dates fixed for the attempt have all been British in-

ventions; that "the fiction of a big attack was invented as a means to heighten British prestige," according to the "Frankfurter Zeitung" a week ago.



The weather is to a Briton's conversation what roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and two veg. are to his diet—practically a necessity.

Yet the weather has never been so important to Britain. If Hitler is to attempt an invasion with one chance in ten of succeeding, he must have "Hitler Weather"—the kind that by Nazi tradition always graces the Führer's efforts, even if the sun is required only to shine on him as he accepts a bouquet from some flaxen-haired little tot.

But the admittedly revolting British climate provides very little Hitler Weather, and most of 1940's is already past. The leaves are thinking of turning brown; the evenings are drawing in; red blackberries are becoming black-blackberries in the hedges; the swimming pools are closing down . . .



These are little things, but they are signs that very soon the skies in the short daytime will be too cloudy for good bombing, and that the waters of the English Channel and North Sea will be too rough for the flat-bottomed scows of the hotchpotch Nazi armada.

Why shouldn't the Hun come over in November, when the fog screens the seas, and the waves are temporarily stilled? ask some "far-sighted" fearful-thinkers.

He cannot come in November, because the weather is more unsuitable for air warfare than than at almost any other time.

Well, why shouldn't he come over in the frosty weather around Christmas, when the air is clear and airmen can see? argues the persistent pest.

Because the rough seas would do what was done to the last armada to approach Dover's off-white cliffs; because of the cold; because of the shortness of the days; because Germany will have its hands full keeping a starved Europe in subjection through the winter months; for very many other reasons . . .



Then why not now, in the last few weeks of good weather?

Because Hitler, as the evidence above goes far to prove, is not ready; and because, even if he were, he would face the risk of having to carry on his campaign through the long winter months, with all the snags attached to such a rash venture.

It takes a wishful-thinker or a courageous man to state, when most of Britain expects an attempted invasion, that Hitler will not invade this year; that he will wait until next year, when it will be far too late. Nature would help us to beat off an attack in 1940, and by 1941 we shall need none of her help.

But (and there nearly always is a "but" in dealing with That Man) it may well be that mad-hatter Hitler will press the invasion button this year in sheer desperation or foolhardiness.

It is certain that when he began the blitzkrieg Hitler planned for the end of the war by this summer. But for British heroism and cunning at Dunkirk and Oran, his plan would have been much closer to fulfilment, for Britain would have been in a very ticklish position indeed. It would have taken a lot of muddling through to win the war minus the B.E.F. men and the French Navy.

With his plans thus miserably awry, Hitler may have no alternative but to attack this year, whatever his chances of success.

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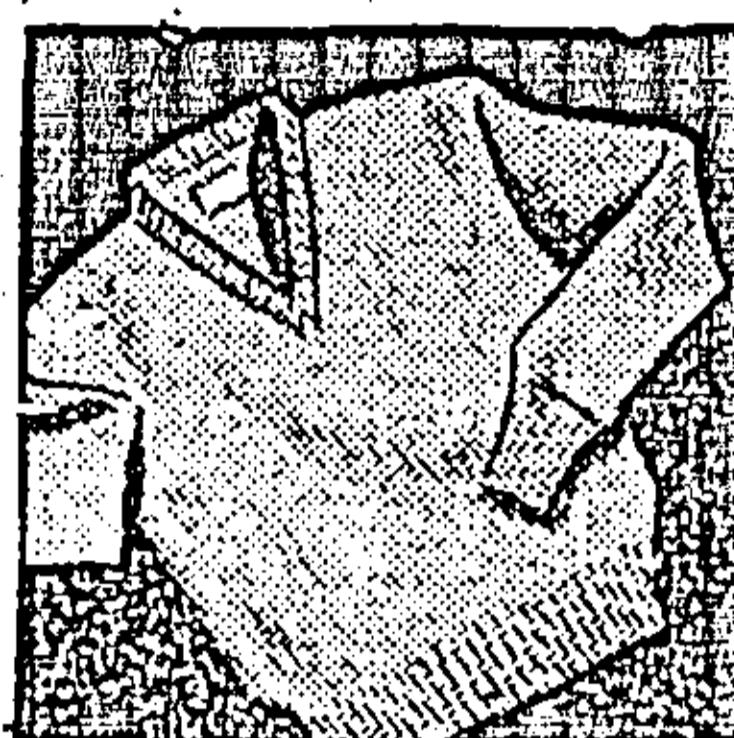


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TERROR IN CONQUERED COUNTRIES

CRUSHED BY IRON HAND OF NAZIS

IN SPITE OF the rigid Nazi Press and radio censorship, the strict control of the mails, and the activities of the Gestapo, news of conditions in Hitler's "conquered" States continues to filter through various channels to the London headquarters of the Governments concerned.

Information is gathered from neutral broadcasts and radio listening services of embassies and legations in London.

Occasionally couriers arrive in London from the Continent bringing with them dispatches which lift the veil of silence. They travel through the German-occupied territories under assumed names, and ostensibly on business. Their passports are always in order, and they vary with every journey.

From these and other sources which, naturally, have to be kept secret, the "Shadow Cabinets" of Europe piece together a comprehensive picture of life under Nazism.

In striking contrast to the reign of terror which still exists in Poland and Czechoslovakia, conditions in Norway and Denmark are said to be fairly tolerable.

Apparently the German soldiers and police have received instructions from Berlin to be on their best behaviour. So far from interfering with the normal life of the people, the Nazis keep themselves to themselves.

Norway

German army officers behave with circumspection in the cafes and restaurants of Oslo. The Gestapo agents who have descended in swarms keep very much in the background. The German technicians sent to direct important State factories are conciliatory.

But the iron hand is there all the same. Public meetings are forbidden, Trade Unions, where they function, are under close surveillance. The newspapers have to submit to a severe censorship. The news they publish is from German sources.

The Norwegian has not submitted willingly to the invader, he has accepted the inevitable, but it is a passive obedience. Mines are being worked solely for the benefit of Germany. Factories have been despoiled of their output. Timber, wood pulp, and minerals have been taken in huge quantities.

Although they are out of the war, the people have not lost interest in it. Their heart is with the Allies, but the time has not yet come when they will rise against the enemy. In the words of my informant, "They grin and bear him."

Holland

It is Holland, however, where the German jackboot is coming down heavily. The Nazi "army of occupation" has been strengthened recently by another 20,000 troops.

Warnings against "demonstrative behaviour" have been broadcast following disturbances at The Hague, in which Gestapo men were roughly handled.

The Dutch army is now demobilised, and a number of officers and men drafted into a compulsory "reconstruction service" for work in factories and on the land.

Severe sentences have been imposed on many prominent citizens who have failed to carry out Nazi orders. The manager of a well-known chain-store was court-martialled and sentenced to three years' imprisonment because he was alleged to have warned his sales girls not to speak or fraternise with German soldiers.

The girls, terrorised by the Gestapo, had to appear as witnesses against their employer.

Sentences of from one to four years' penal servitude were passed by a German court at Rotterdam on six Dutch workers who went to the assistance of an R.A.F. pilot who had come down while on a reconnaissance flight over Holland.

But the Germans gain little by such methods. Very rarely is a Dutch girl or young man seen in the company of a German soldier or civilian.

The food problem, especially in the big towns, is becoming acute. Before the invasion Holland was

crushed by the iron hand of Nazis.

NAZI LEAFLETS GOING BACK

Some of the Hitler speech leaflets which were dropped over a South Coast town recently will shortly be floating down over Germany.

A young British airman who was on leave when leaflets were dropped from German planes collected about three dozen which fell in the garden of his parents' home.

Rolling them into a parcel he said, "I'll give these back to the Germans next time I fly over there."

He has already made more than 20 flights to Germany.

ESCAPED IN FROCK COAT

A British officer who reached Sweden after escaping from Norway was wearing a frock coat with tails cut off. It had been given him by a Norwegian who had bought it for his wedding.

The officer was one of ten who, with 115 men, reached England after having been interned in Sweden.

They had been given safe conduct in a Swedish steamer from Petsamo after travelling 900 miles by road through Finland and the Arctic circle.

Wearing the blue boiler suits with which they were issued before leaving Sweden, they sang "Roll Out the Barrel"—their camp song—when they were on the march.

Major D. C. Tennent, who brought the men home, said that many of them took four weeks to cover an average distance of 150 miles to Sweden. They had to cross mountain ranges, frozen lakes and rivers which were made raging torrents by melting snow.

Physical Training

While in Sweden they had kept fit by doing daily physical training, and the Swedes did everything to make them as comfortable as possible.

"The men are delighted to be home," added Major Tennent, "and will be ready for anything after a spot of leave."

Second Lieutenant George Valentine, of the Sherwood Foresters, a well-known Rugby football players, lost most of his kit in swimming a river. He heard on reaching Sweden that his wife had presented him with a son and heir.

Food was the greatest problem as the men made their way over mountains and rivers.

Major Tennent said that they had to "scrounge" most of their food to supplement what the Norwegians gave them.

UP TO NECK IN WATER FOR FOUR HOURS IN RAID

(By A Special Correspondent)

TRAPPED BY debris in a flooded basement, with water at times swirling level with his chin, Paddy Jackson, thirty, was rescued by A.R.P. workers after a four-hour struggle during an air raid on North-West London.

As they dragged him to safety the Irishman, who had remained conscious throughout his ordeal, exclaimed: "Tell my wife, 'tis a miracle I'm alive." He and his rescuers were threatened, too, by coal gas which hung on the surface of the water rushing from a burst water main.

Some of the rescue squad had to hold Jackson's head above the water, while others tore at the clay and rubble which pinned his feet.

Firemen helped, pumped water from the basement. They prevented it from rising and drowning the trapped man.

A doctor crawled amid the wreckage to administer morphia. While the rescue squad was at work in the front basement other workers were dragging Jackson's wife and two small children from debris in the next room. They were unhurt.

"Gas Was Terrible"

Jackson himself was suffering only from shock and bruises.

At the back of the house Jackson's dog, only occupant of an Anderson shelter, was unharmed.

Mr. C. Spear, one of the rescue squad, told a reporter: "Jackson told me he had heard a terrific explosion, and got up to go into the rear part of the basement to his wife."

"Then another bomb came and he fell into a hole in the floor. He was trapped by his legs. His brother-in-law managed to get out and called for help."

Mrs. Jackson and the children were partly trapped in the other room.

"We had to put a rope under Jackson's armpits to keep his head above the water which at times came level with his chin.

"The gas was terrible, but Jackson was plucky and never lost heart once he knew his family were safe."

Warden Saves 14

Chocked and blinded and in danger of being caught by tumbling earth and concrete, Maurice Vent, a young deputy post warden, flung himself down the escape shaft of an underground space used as a shelter, in East London.

He handed fourteen of the trapped people through the 21ft. square shaft to wardens waiting above.

A bomb had ploughed a 10ft. crater in the earth at the side of the shelter, throwing down a section of the wall on to the families who had been sleeping beneath it.

Several men, women and children lost their lives, including a father, mother and their three children. Several were seriously hurt.

With Sure Hands

Vent said: "We could hardly see a thing, but people who had been sheltering on the side farthest from where the bomb fell seemed to have escaped with only minor cuts and bruises."

"I handed them through the escape shaft to Wardens Cohen and Bristow."

"Then I came across three people partly buried in earth and sand. I dug them out with my bare hands."

"Next I came across a man pinned by the head with masonry. We levered it off and he escaped with only slight injuries."

A constable jumped into a flooded crater six feet deep to help a doctor who was giving first aid to a man and woman, trapped under the wreckage of a house in south-west London.

While the doctor gave injections of morphia the policeman supported a wall and other debris which was in danger of collapse.

The victims were freed after much difficulty and taken to hospital.

U-BOAT PUT TO FLIGHT

Five men of a tanker's crew saved their ship after she had been torpedoed. While their mates waited for them in the boats, these five righted the ship and then manned the gun and put the U-boat to flight.

The story of their courage and skill was told in London.

The tanker was torpedoed just before dawn. As she at once took a heavy list the crew were ordered into the boats, with the exception of four men who, with the captain, stayed on board.

Groped Their Way

One boat, with the chief engineer, lay alongside to take off this small party if necessary, and the other boats "lay off" some distance away.

The ship had been plunged in darkness by the explosion. The way to the valves had to be found

NET TO CATCH FIRE BOMBS

An automatic roof device to detect the fall of incendiary bombs has been adopted at St. Dunstan's stores in London. Its design is based on suggestions made by members of the staff, many of whom are blind ex-Service men.

It consists of a net slung immediately below the ceiling of the top floor, and suspended at frequent intervals round the edge on catapult elastic. Cords lead to delicate contact switches, which operate a bell in the air-raid shelter if an incendiary bomb penetrates the roof.

This device is understood to be so far the only one of its type in use.

without light, for only by equalising the tanks could the ship be brought to an even keel and be saved.

It was done.

About an hour later, as the ship's boats were coming back alongside, a shell burst in the water nearby, and in the early morning light a U-boat was seen about 1,500 yards off.

More shells followed, but the defensive gun was quickly manned and three rounds from it were enough to make the U-boat submerge.

The tanker picked up her crew and has since arrived at an English port under her own steam. Needless to say, this ship was claimed as sunk in a German High Command communiqué.

GERMAN 1936 PLAN TO ATTACK NORWAY

GERMANY'S protestations that she invaded Norway to frustrate an intended Allied attack are shattered by an article in a Swedish newspaper, which claims that the Norwegian campaign was part of a German plan to encircle Britain.

The writer, Per Nystrom, in the Goteborg "Handels-Och Sjoforts-Tidning," tells how Germany made ready her stroke.

The practical work for the organisation of the Skagerrak front, he says, can with certainty be dated as far back as 1936, and probably had its beginnings even earlier.

By the autumn of 1938 these preparations had advanced so far that the then War Minister, General von Blomberg, considered that the time was ripe to investigate the possibilities of setting up the necessary bases. He asked permission of the Norwegian authorities to undertake a pleasure trip in the naval yacht Grille during October—a time when the autumn storms had already begun.

A number of places which he desired to visit were mentioned. In accordance with the customs of international politeness, he received the necessary permission.

Bases Ready. With him were some 20 higher military officials.

The journey attracted a certain amount of attention because the boat sailed into Narvik, permission to visit which had neither been requested nor given.

From that moment the German Fleet began to carry out systematic

exercises near Norwegian territorial waters and then entered actual Norwegian territory.

In the spring of 1937 two light cruisers passed through Karm-sund, the difficult strait between Haugesund and Karmoya, and at the end of July four German minelayers suddenly sailed into Bergen's roadstead, without the permission of the Norwegian Defence Department.

During 1938 new German bases within the Belt were ready. Among other things, a naval port had been built at Nurvik, near Flensburg, which could rival even Wilhelmshafen and Kiel.

Along the coast great barracks were built where necessary expeditionary forces could be kept in preparedness.

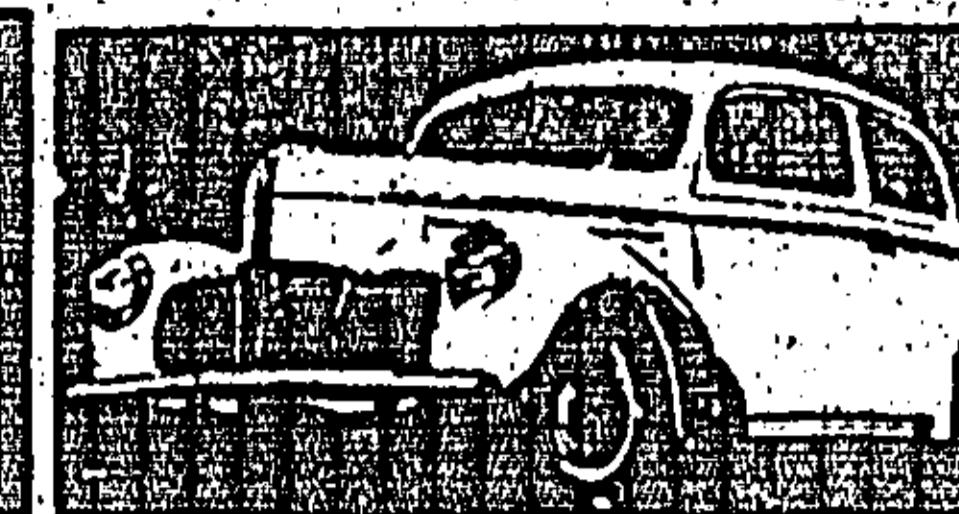
Near the naval base a large aerodrome with underground hangars was built, and another laid out at Schleswig, was probably the largest in Northern Europe.

The plans for the attack on Denmark and Norway were probably worked out to the smallest detail.

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STUDEBAKER CHAMPION

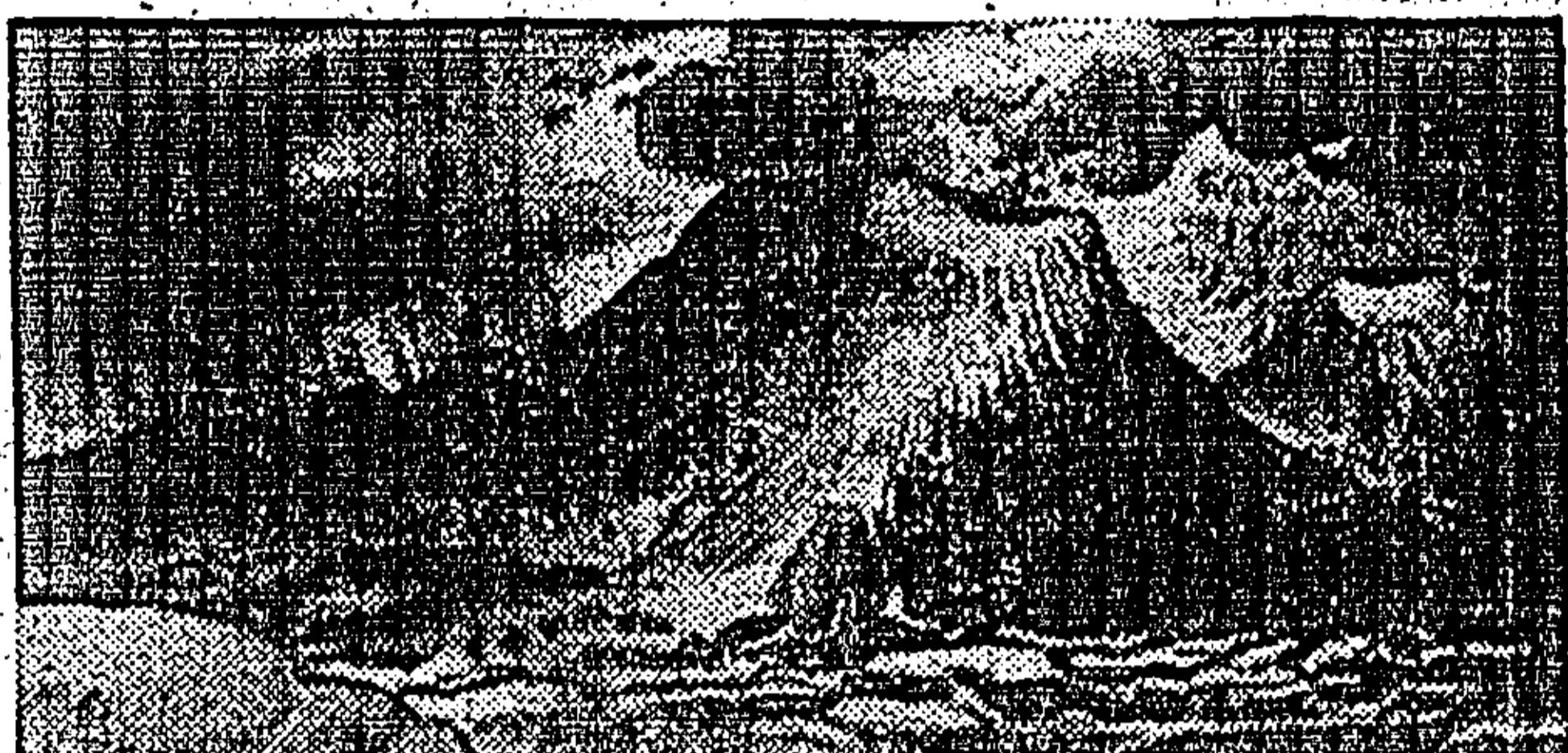
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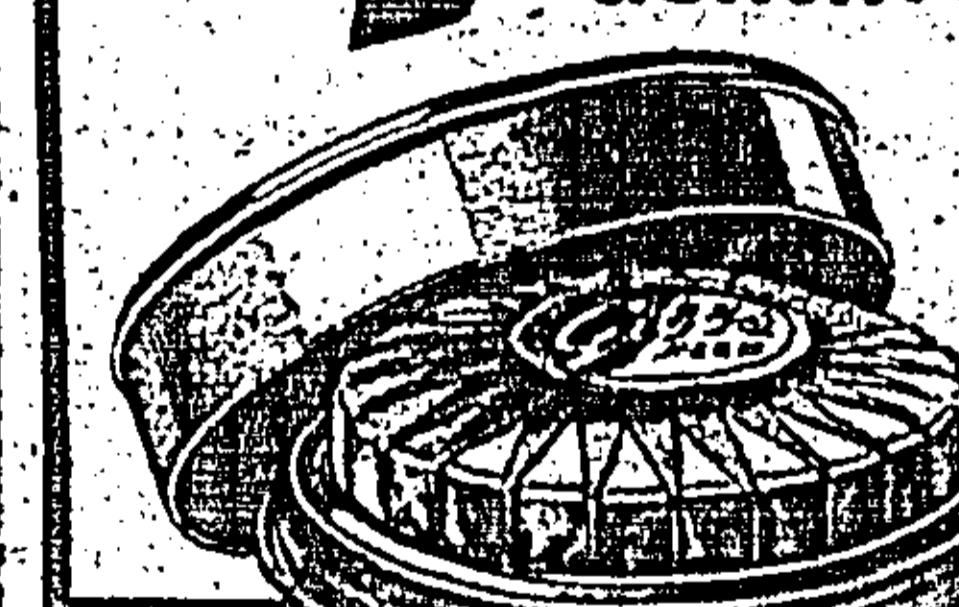
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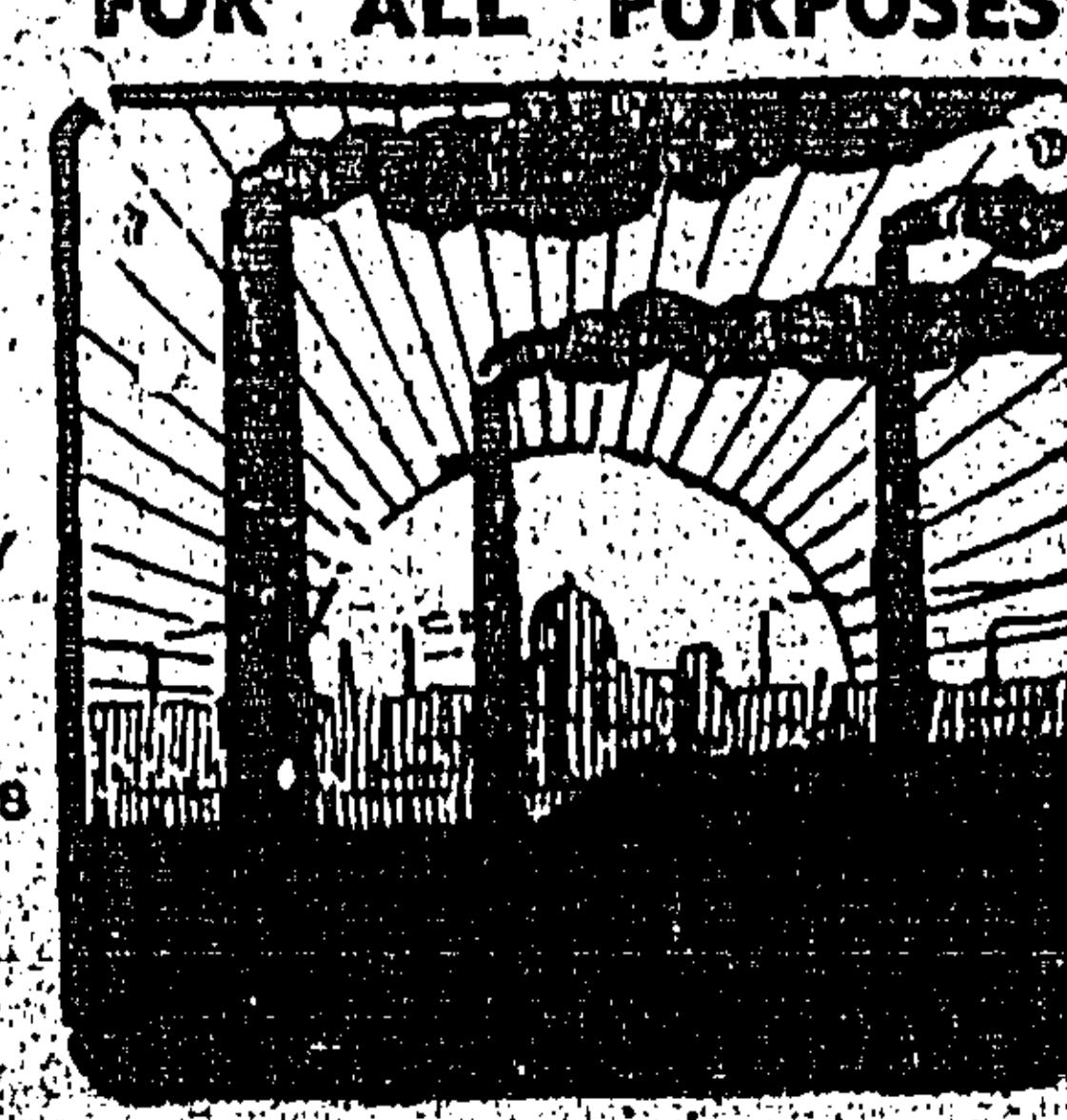
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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We hereby give notice that Ah Hock otherwise known as Wu Cheuk Ting one time Wardroom Messman of H.M.S. "TAMAR" having resigned, the Wardroom Mess cannot hold themselves responsible for any debts contracted by him heretofore or subsequent to 15th December, 1940.

IN THE MATTER of the Alien Enemies (Winding Up) Ordinance 1914

And

In the Matter of:
Norddeutscher Lloyd, Bremen-Agents, Melchers & Co.
Chien Hsin Engineering Co., Ltd.

Notice is hereby given that it is intended to pay a first and final dividend in each of the above liquidations, and creditors, who have not already done so, are requested to lodge detailed statements of their claims with the undersigned not later than 31st December, 1940, failing which they will be excluded from the distribution.

LOWE, BINGHAM & MATTHEWS,
Chartered Accountants,
Liquidators.

Hong Kong, 11th Dec., 1940.

PUBLIC AUCTIONS

The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on

SATURDAY, 14th December, 1940

commencing at 10.30 a.m.

at their Sales Room,

No. 35, Hankow Road, Kowloon.

A QUANTITY OF VALUABLE

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND

SUNDRIES.

Terms: Cash on Delivery.

LAMMERT BROS.,
Auctioneers.

Hong Kong, 11th Dec., 1940.

The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on

MONDAY, 16th December, 1940.

commencing at 2.30 p.m.

at their Sales Room,

No. 35, Hankow Road, Kowloon.

A Fine Assortment of Dressed

Dolls, Wooden & Mechanical Toys,

Furniture, Tea Sets, Balloons and

Sundries.

also

Electrical Toys.

On View on Day of Sale.

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LAMMERT BROS.,
Auctioneers.

Hong Kong, 11th Dec., 1940.

The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on

TUESDAY, 17th December, 1940

commencing at 5.15 p.m.

at their Sales Room, No. 2,

Connaught Road, Central,

Second Floor.

A Fine Collection of Postage

Stamps.

Terms: Cash on Delivery.

LAMMERT BROS.,
Auctioneers.

Hong Kong, 11th Dec., 1940.

G R PUBLIC AUCTION

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS of the Sale by Public Auction to be held on MONDAY, the 16th day of Dec., 1940, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Governor of one Lot of Crown Land at Cheung Sha Wan, in the Colony of Hong Kong for a term of 75 years, commencing from 1st July, 1898, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 24 years less the last three days thereof.

Intending bidders are advised that immediately after the disposal of the lot the Purchaser (if not the applicant) will be required to deposit with an authorised officer who will be present at the sale, the sum of two hundred dollars, (\$200) in cash. This sum will be refunded on payment of the Purchase price.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Sale	Registry No.	Locality	Boundary Measurements				Contents in Sq. ft.	Annual Rent.	Upset Price
			N.	S.	E.	W.			
1	New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 2833.	Junction of Un Chau St. & Cheung Fat St., Cheung Sha Wan.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	About 4,050	\$56	\$2,448

As per sale plan

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

The THIRTEENTH EXTRA RACE MEETING will be held (weather permitting) at HAPPY VALLEY on SATURDAY, 14th December, 1940, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

The First Bell will be rung at 1.30 p.m.

MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE

No One without a badge will be admitted to the Members' Enclosure. Such must be worn throughout the duration of each Meeting in such a manner as to be readily identified.

Badges admitting Non-Members to the Members' Enclosure and Club Rooms at \$5.00 for Gentlemen and \$3.00 for Ladies (both including tax) are obtainable through the SECRETARY upon the personal or written application of a Member, such Member to be responsible for all visitors introduced by him, and for Payment of all Chits, etc.

The Secretary's Office, 1st Floor, Exchange Building, (Tel. 27794) will close at 11.45 a.m.

Tiffins are obtainable at the Club House provided they are ordered in advance from the No. 1 Boy (Tel. 21920).

PUBLIC ENCLOSURE

The price of Admission to the Public Enclosure is \$1.00 including Tax, for all Persons, including Ladies, and is payable at the Gate. Soldiers and Sailors in Uniform are admitted Half Price.

By Order,
C. B. BROWN,
Secretary.
Hong Kong, 9th Dec., 1940.

G R PUBLIC AUCTION

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS of the Sale by Public Auction to be held on MONDAY, the 16th day of December, 1940, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Governor of one Lot of Crown Land at Kau Pui Shek, in the Colony of Hong Kong for a term of 75 years, commencing from 1st July, 1898, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 75 years.

Intending bidders are advised that immediately after the disposal of the lot the Purchaser (if not the applicant) will be required to deposit with an authorised officer who will be present at the sale, the sum of two hundred dollars, (\$200) in cash. This sum will be refunded on payment of the Purchase price.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Sale	Registry No.	Locality	Boundary Measurements				Contents in Sq. ft.	Annual Rent.	Upset Price
			N.	S.	E.	W.			
2	Brown Building, Lot No. 440.	Opposite the Hind Home, Pokfulam Road & South West of Rural Building, Lot No. 324.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	About 15,000	\$172	\$3,000

As per sale plan

WANTED

SHANGHAI GIRL, aged 25, wishes to meet a trustworthy companion of any nationality, must understand Chinese dialect. Apply Box No. 170 c/o "The China Mail."

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D R I D G E NOTES

By The Four Aces Doubles Aren't Sacred

Among better players, a penalty double in the early rounds of the bidding is likely to be more of a suggestion than a pronouncement. The doubler's partner may either accept or reject the suggestion, depending upon the nature of his hand. For example:

South, Dealer
Both sides vulnerable
North-South part score, 60

♦ K 10 5
♥ 5
♦ 7 6 5 3 2
♣ A K 9 6

♦ 8 2
♥ K Q J 6 2
♦ 10 8 4
♣ Q J 8 7 4
2

♦ J 8 7 3
♥ A 9 7 3
♦ Q A K J 9
♣ 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ 2♦ Pass Dbl. Pass
2♦ Pass Pass Pass

West hated to overcall with so much strength behind South, but he was realist enough to foresee that South would not stay in a heart contract and that the state of the score made some bid at this point practically mandatory.

North promptly properly doubled two clubs. If South's hand were suited to defence against a club contract, North's values in clubs assured a good result for the double; and the singleton heart in the North hand indicated that the North-South hands might just as well defend since they were unlikely to go far offensively. Nevertheless, this double of two clubs was merely a suggestion.

It was South's singleton club which prevented him from accepting the double. With the same high-card strength and three small clubs, South would have passed his partner's double; and even a doubleton club would have presented a close question. The singleton club, however, indicated that a better contract could be found, so South quite properly bid two diamonds. As it turned out, South made that contract with an overtrick whereas West would have made two clubs without much trouble.

Yesterday you were Merwin D. Maier's partner and, non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, you held:

♦ A K J 4 2
♥ 5 4
♦ K 10 8 2
♣ K 8

The bidding:
You Schenken Maier Jacoby
1♦ 2♦ Dbl. 30
(?)

ANSWER: Double. You have the

opponents on the run, and it would be most lax of you to let them "off the hook" by bidding, or avoid your responsibility by passing.

Score 100% for double, 0 for any other bid.

Yesterday you were Merwin D. Maier's partner and, non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, you held:

♦ A K J 5
♥ Q 10 8 8 4
♦ A 9
♣ K 10

What do you bid? (Answer Monday).



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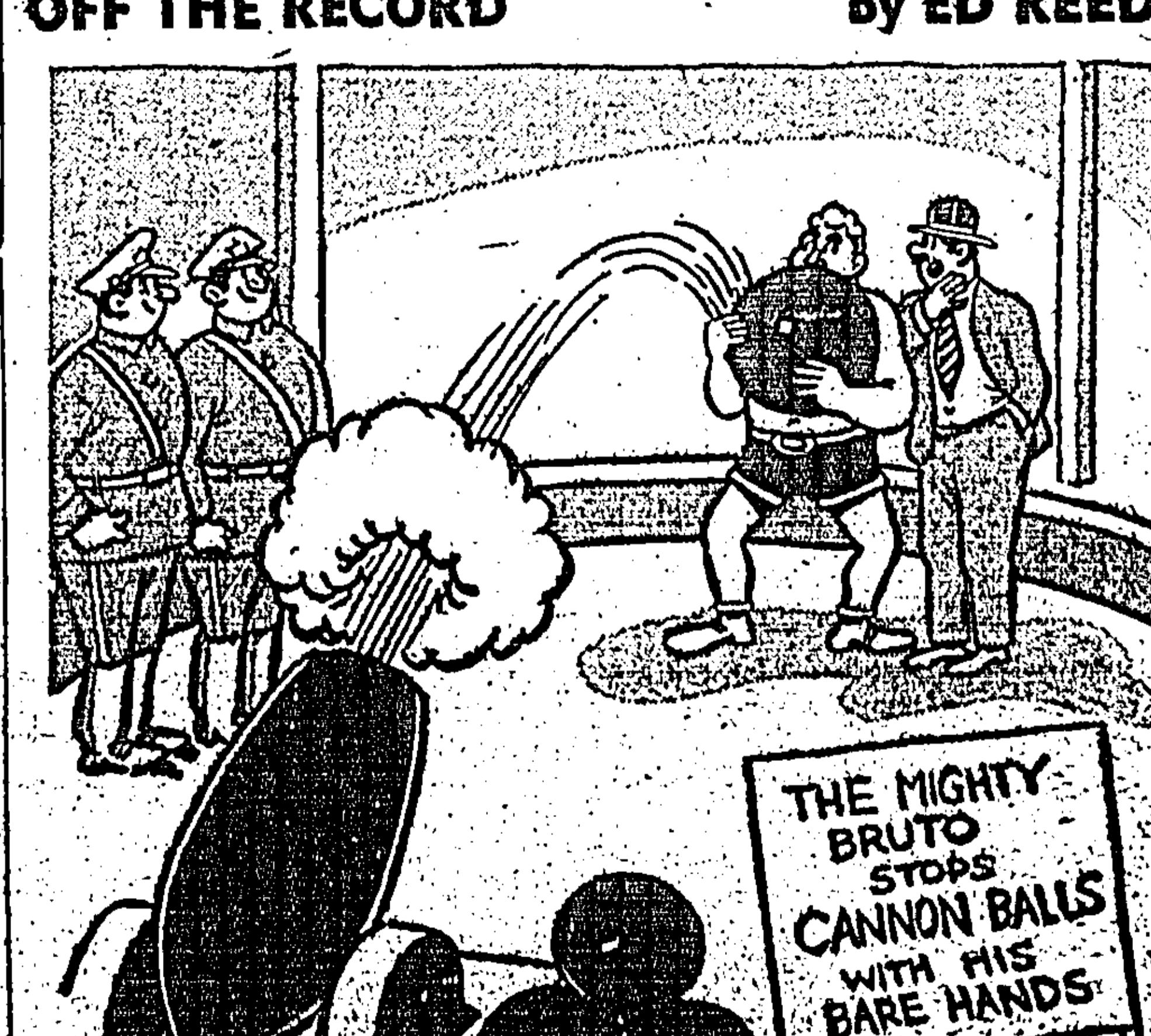
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1940-1941

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THURSDAY, 26th Dec. Extension 2 a.m. Dinner \$6. After Dinner \$2 " "

TUESDAY, 31st Dec. - Extension 3 a.m. Dinner \$8. After Dinner \$2 " "

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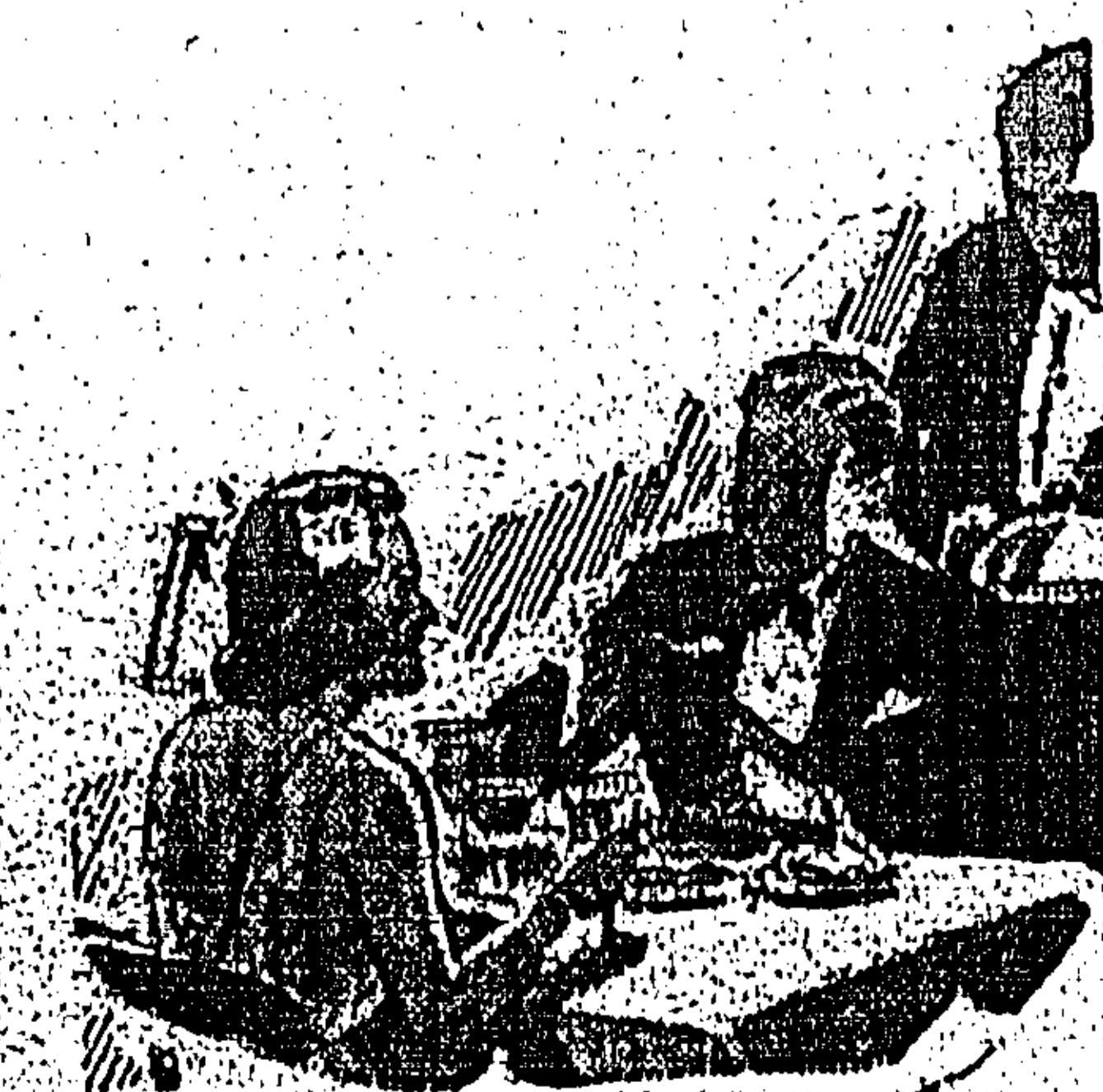
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RIO-DE-JANEIRO, SANTOS, MONTEVIDEO & BUENOS AIRES via Panama	Nan-A Maru 20th Dec. Buenos Aires Maru 21st Jan, 1941. (Passengers acceptable from Kobe).
MOMBASA, ZANZIBAR, DARES-SALAAM, BEIRA, LOURENCO MARQUES, DURBAN, ALGOA BAY, CAPE TOWN & SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS via Singapore & Colombo	Hawaii Maru 30th Dec.
BOMBAY & KARACHI via Singapore, Penang and Colombo	Melbourne Maru 23rd Dec.
CALCUTTA via Saigon, Singapore, Belawan Deli and Rangoon	
SAIGON	
KEELUNG via Swatow & Amoy	
CANTON	Sirogane Maru 18th Dec. Sirogane Maru 22nd Dec. Sirogane Maru 26th Dec. Sirogane Maru 30th Dec.

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S.S. PRESIDENT PIERCE	January 3
S.S. PRESIDENT TAFT	January 17

To New York and Boston

Via Manila, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay and Capetown

S.S. PRESIDENT JACKSON	December 16
*S.S. PRESIDENT VAN BUREN	December 17
*MANILA, SINGAPORE & PENANG	

TO MANILA

S.S. PRESIDENT JACKSON	December 16
S.S. PRESIDENT PIERCE	December 27
S.S. PRESIDENT TAFT	January 10

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XMAILS

The Parcel Post Service to Canton has been resumed.

Small Packet Post to all countries is suspended.

INWARD MAIIS

SATURDAY

Air Mail by "Pan-American Airways Direct Service"—San Francisco date, 1st and 4th December.
Swatow.

SUNDAY

U.S.A., Honolulu, Japan and Shanghai—(San Francisco date, 22nd Nov.).

MONDAY

Air Mail by "British Overseas Airways Service" (except London) by Sea from Singapore.
U.S.A., Honolulu, Japan and Shanghai—(San Francisco date, 18th Nov.).
Canada, U.S.A., Japan and Shanghai—(Vancouver B.C., date, 27th Nov.).

TUESDAY

Canton Air Mail by "Pan-American Airways Direct Service"—San Francisco date, 10th December.

FOR DATE & TIME

OUTWARD MAIIS

SATURDAY

Manila, Ceylon, India, East and South Africa 5.30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Air Mail by sea to Singapore to connect with the "British Overseas Airways." K.P.O. & G.P.O.

Reg. 2.00 p.m.
Ord. 2.30 p.m.

Straits, Ceylon, India, East and South Africa 3.30 p.m.

Manila, Straits and United Kingdom K.P.O.

Parcels 4.00 p.m.
Reg. 5.00 p.m.
Ord. 5.30 p.m.

G.P.O.

Parcels 4.00 p.m.
Reg. 5.00 p.m.
Ord. 7.00 p.m.

Air Mail for Manila, Guam, Honolulu, U.S.A. and Europe via "Pan-American Airways and Trans-Atlantic Services." K.P.O.

Reg. 5.00 p.m.
Ord. 5.30 p.m.

G.P.O.

Reg. 5.00 p.m.
Ord. 7.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Canton 7.15 a.m.

Manila, Batavia and Surabaya 8.30 a.m.

* Superscribed Correspondence Only.

RADIO

12.15 p.m.—Short Service of Intercession.

12.30 p.m.—Compositions of Tchaikovsky.

1.00 p.m.—Local Time Signal and Weather Report.

1.03 p.m.—Some Welsh Songs.

1.15 p.m.—The Band of H.M. Grenadier Guards.

1.30 p.m.—Reuter & Rugby Press, Weather Forecast and Announcements.

1.45 p.m.—Dance Music by Victor Silvester & His Ballroom Orchestra.

2.15 p.m.—Close down.

6.30 p.m.—Closing Local Stock Quotations.

6.32 p.m.—Beethoven—Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21.

7.00 p.m.—London Relay—The News.

7.15 p.m.—London Relay—Questions of the Hour.

7.30 p.m.—Dennis Noble (Baritone) and the New Light Symphony Orchestra.

8.00 p.m.—Local Time Signal, Weather Report and Announcements.

8.03 p.m.—London Relay—Music Hall.

9.00 p.m.—London Relay—The News & News Commentary.

9.30 p.m.—Local sports results.

9.33 p.m.—Request Variety Programme, with Henry Hall & His Orchestra, June Knight (Soprano), Billy Cotton & His Band, Arthur Askey, Lecuna Cuban Boys, Nelson Eddy, Joe Daniels & His Hot Shots, Elsie Carlisle, Carroll Gibbons & the Savoy Hotel Orpheans, Leslie Hutchinson, The B.B.C. Dance Orchestra, Lucienne Boyer, James Melton, Casals Club Orchestra, Jessica Dragonette, Jeanette MacDonald & Nelson Eddy, Glenn Miller & His Orchestra, Boyd Steven, Jack Hylton, Grace Moore, Turner Layton, Dorothy Lamour, Bing Crosby & Connie Boswell, and Harry Roy & His Orchestra.

11.00 p.m.—London Relay—Talk in My Opinion.

11.15 p.m.—Dance Music.

12.00 midnight—Close down.

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SOFTBALL

Recreio To Be Severely Tested By Cyclones In To-morrow's Tilt

Gerry Gosano Pitching For Title Holders Saints Confident Against Filipinos

By "Grandstand"

THE ONLY GAME of interest in to-morrow's three game Senior League schedule will be the Recreio Aces-Cyclone clash, slated for 2.45 p.m. Since their disastrous defeat at the hands of the Indian Softballers about a month ago, the Rees have not been seen in action, and to-morrow's tilt will show whether they have hit their pennant winning form of last season again.

Although the league is only half over, and it is, therefore, rather premature to consider any one team as probable champions, the season has reached a critical stage where a loss of a game cannot be afforded.

Hurler Johnnie Alvares of the Rees has dropped off considerably, but fortunately for the Aces, second-string Gerry Gosano is developing tremendously and is stepping into Alvares' shoes.

For the Cyclones, manager "Sunburn" Omar, has recently acquired Carlos "Kelly" Silva-Netto from V.R.C. Juniors. Silva-Netto will be seen for the first time in the Senior League to-morrow with "Skelly" Razack receiving for him. Both teams will be playing air-tight fielding, and the team that first cracks up under strain, will lose the verdict.

Hal Winglee, Vancy Marques and Harry Campos have been selected to officiate at this game.

At 1.30 p.m. Saints should have no difficulty in ringing up a win over the Filipinos, augmented by the recruiting of a number of players from Cables of the inter-hong loop, have been dishing up a better fielding display, and should give pitcher Tatong Amper the support which has been so lacking in the last few games.

The Filipinos, augmented by the recruiting of a number of players from Cables of the inter-hong loop, have been dishing up a better fielding display, and should give pitcher Tatong Amper the support which has been so lacking in the last few games.

Nick Beltrao, Nip Lum and Tufty Chinn have been given the umbriling assignment for this game. At 4.00 p.m. Indians should make short work of the Canadians, who are still in the cellar. In spite of the fact that Indians have dropped two costly games they are unshaken in their determination to be in at the finish, and will be fielding their regular nine, starting with their "Kassa" Nazarin-Tarzan" Ismail battery.

TO-DAY'S HOCKEY

Two friendly hockey matches are to be played at King's Park this afternoon by both teams of Y.M.C.A., who will be represented by the following players:

1st XI v Punjab (4.15): Benwell; Taylor and Yourself; Jordan, Coombe and Dunne; Gilchrist, Gemmell, Hitchcock, Morgan and McGahan.

2nd XI v R.A.M.C. (3.00): Highlands; Grant and Railton; Croft, Tomlinson and Gorman; Fancey, Spenceley, Spare, Dorner and Banks.

Following is the 1940 second half form guide at the Valley:

China Ponies

1/2 Mile 155 Yards
1.02.0—Distinctive Time (Wei, 140); 2, Eve of Heaven (Black, 140); 3, Dupont Bay (Sung, 142). 1½ and 2, 8th E. (2).
1.04.4—Conquering Time (Wei, 149); 2, Blue Diamond (Lee, 142); 3, Hopeful Star (Hearne, 161). 2 and ½, 7th E.
1.08.4—West Lake (Chao, 150); 2, Sunlight View (Pih, 168); 3, Portrush (Chang, 159) and Eve of Hunting (Wood, 153). 1½ and dead heat. 8th E. (1).
1.10.0—This Time (Wei, 168); 2, Valorous (Hearne, 145); 3, Double Chance (Chao, 168). Short head and 2, 8th E. (1).
Six Furlongs
1.20.3—Craigavad (Chao, 153); 2, Dupont Bay (Sung, 143); 3, Distinctive Time (Wei, 140). A neck, short head. 12th E.
1.25.1—Conquering Time (Wei, 157); 2, Lilliber (Chao, 161); 3, Ronson (Poy, 153). Short head and ½, 10th E.
1.26.1—Resisting Time (Wei, 158); 2, Hillsboro Bay (Treverton, 150); 3, Taxing Master (Tao, 151). 3 and 1, 7th E.
1.27.3—Hughber (Chao, 156); 2, Thirty Six (Pan, 161); 3, Eve of Folly (Davis, 147). 1½ and 1, 10th E.
1.28.3—Strathbannock (Treverton, 148); 2, Rose Queen (P. Botelho, 153); 3, Advancing Time (Chao, 162). Short head and short head. 7th E.
1.29.4—Sylvandale (Tao, 149); 2, West Lake (Chao, 156); 3, Portrush (Chang, 154). Short head and 4, 11th E.
1.31.1—Valorous (Needa, 153); 2, Piet Hein (Botelho, 147); 3, Salvage Master (Tao, 1 and ½, 11th E.). One Mile
1.33.0—Confusion Bay (Black,

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161); 2, Craigavad (Pih, 157); 3, Distinctive Time (Wei, 142). Short head and 4, 10th E. (1).	1/4 Miles	1.00.3—A Green Time (Proulx, 152); 2, Tarzan (Wei, 135); Heinz (Black, 145). 2 and ½, 7th E.
1.54.3—Gay Star (Tao, 166); 2, Rose Emily (Poy, 144); 3, Conquering Time (Wei, 154). 1 and 1, 8th E. (1).	2.20.1—Eve of Harvest (Black, 157); 2, O-Lan (Needa, 158); 3, Craigavad (Pih, 158). 2 and 1½, 8th E. (1).	1.17.0—Viceroy (Black, 160); 2, Springhurst (Poy, 140); 3, Pumpernickel (Tao, 147) and Rowan (Hearne, 155). ½ and ½, 7th E.
1.57.1—Peaceful View (Pih, 142); 2, King Kong (Needa, 154); 3, Expansion Time (Wei, 148). Neck and ½, 8th E. (1).	2.25.2—Dupont Bay (Black, 158); 2, O-Lan (Sung, 168); 3, Distinctive Time (Wei, 156). 1½ and 2, 8th E.	1.17.1—Vanity Fair (Ip, 145); 2, Ascot Day (Hearne, 149); 3, Lancashire Chips (Wei, 155). Short head and 2, 9th E. Vanity Fair was disqualified and Viceroy (Black, 160) secured third place.
2.00.3—Eve of Dancing (Wood, 152); 2, Eve of Peace (Barrow, 147); 3, Patricia (Ho, 147). 6 and 2, 8th E. (1).	2.28.0—Avon (Black, 145); 2, Galaxy (Tao, 146); 3, Rose Emily (Poy, 151). 1½ and 4, 9th E.	1.18.0—Shuttlecock (Black, 147); 2, Catterick Bridge (Hearne, 152); 3, Venus Bay (Needa, 165). Short head, same. 11th E.
2.01.4—Kentucky (Chiu Ki-fan, 158); 2, Advancing Time (Ho Hong Ping, 160); 3, Strathbannock (Cooper, 159). 5 and 1, 10th E.	2.29.3—Blue Gate (Chao, 151); 2, Eve of Dancing (R. M. Wood, 149); 3, Rob Roy (Botelho, 2 and 5, 12th E.). ½ Miles	1.21.2—Catterick Bridge (Hearne, 165); 2, Dick Turpin (Pan, 140); 3, Quick Despatch (Proulx, 154). 3 and short head. 10th E.
2.03.4—Boolat Bay (Li, 153); 2, Emergency Unit (Lee, 155); 3, Rose Flana (Copin, 161). Head and 6, 10th E.	2.33.1—Jane Doe (Tang, 140); 2, Rose Flana (Poy, 163); 3, Blue Field (Black, 161). 2 and 1, 12th E.	1.43.2—Far View (Pih, 164); 2, Sapper (Black, 165); 3, Lancashire Chips (Wei, 148). ¾ and 1, 8th E. (2).
2.05.1—Portrush (Sequeira, 152); 2, Sunlight View (Ho, 156); 3, Eve of Hunting (Wood, 158). ¾ and 3, 7th E.	2.37.2—Eve of Hunting (Craven, 158); 2, Phoenix (Liang, 146); 3, Clowner (Chao, 147). 4 and 2, 8th E. (2).	1.43.4—Baffin Bay (Needa, 158); 2, Lancashire Chips (Treverton, 157); 3, Amicus Curiae (Chao, 150). Short head, A neck. 12th E.
2.07.4—March Brown (Cooper, 154); 2, Double Chance (Yeung Wing-kwai, 156); 3, Gold Coin (K. F. Chiu, 148). 4 and 6, 7th E.	2.41.4—Piet Hein (Wei, 140); 2, Bressay (Hearne, 161); 3, Gold Coin (Liang, 146). ½ and 2, 8th E. (2).	1.46.4—Pumpernickel (Proulx, 148) and Brown Derby (Black, 147); 3, A Roaring Time (Wei, 157). Dead heat and 2, 8th E.
2.07.3—Hillsboro Bay (Needa, 168); 2, Thirty Six (Pan, 161); 3, Eve of Folly (Davis, 147). 1½ and 1, 10th E.	2.58.4—Galaxy (Tao, 146); 2, Hillsboro Bay (Needa, 152); 3, Johnber (Chao, 168). A neck, the same. 12th E.	1.47.1—Brown Derby (Black, 152); 3, Bredon (Chattey, 165). Dead heat and 4, 7th E.
2.08.3—Strathbannock (Treverton, 148); 2, Rose Queen (P. Botelho, 153); 3, Advancing Time (Chao, 162). Short head and short head. 7th E.	3.28.4—O-Lan (Needa, 150); 2, Dupont Bay (Hearne, 150). Short head. 11th E.	1.47.2—Warrego River (Black, 147); 2, Catterick Bridge (Hearne, 152); 3, Colorado Star (Davis, 136). 2 and 4, 8th E. (1).
2.10.4—Sylvandale (Tao, 149); 2, West Lake (Chao, 156); 3, Portrush (Chang, 154). Short head and 4, 11th E.	3.09.4—Brown Derby (Black, 152); 2, Fair Chance (Proulx, 140) and Rowen (Hearne, 160). Short head and D.H. 11th E.	1.47.3—Venus Bay (Needa, 146); 2, Cheerful Star (Hearne, 145); 3, Quick Despatch (Poy, 149). Short head and 2, 8th E. (2).
1.31.1—Valorous (Needa, 153); 2, Piet Hein (Botelho, 147); 3, Salvage Master (Tao, 1 and ½, 11th E.). One Mile	3.09.4—Criffel (Black, 102); 2, Contact (Needa, 162); 3, Happy Landings (Davis, 145). Short head and same. 11th E.	1.47.4—Piccadilly Jim (Chao, 150); 2, Triumphant Bay (Sung, 146); 3, Fair Chance (Ip Kiu-ying, 151). 4 and 2, 12th E.
1.33.0—Confusion Bay (Black,	3.10.3—Thirty Six (Chao, 160); 2, Victoria (Pih, 161); 3, Blue Gate (Chao, 150). Short head and 3, 9th E.	3.49.2—Piccadilly Jim (Chao, 157); 2, Centre Court (Sung, 155); 3, Warrego River (Black, 154). Neck and 6, 10th E.

CABLES TO BEAT H.K. BANK

By "Grandstand"

TWO GOOD GAMES IN JUNIOR DIV.

By "Grandstand"

THE SOUTH CHINA-RECREIO BEES SECOND DIVISION TILT SLATED FOR 10.15. SHOULD BE WELL WORTH WATCHING, AS BOTH TEAMS ARE STILL IN THE PENNANT RACE, HAVING LOST ONE A PIECE.

South China will start hurler Bill Quon on the mound, with Cecil "Sparks" Winglee receiving, whilst Wilfred Lawrence will be pitching for the Bees.

Playing-manager Mike Mendonca will be hind-snatching for him.

The Rees are the heavier sluggers, but the infield is inclined to take things too easy with disastrous results.

V.R.C. Should Win

The V.R.C.-Air Force clash also has all the earmarks of being a good game, and in spite of the fact that the Airmen, headed by Plug Gillespie, can hit them pretty hard, the battery of "Pitsy" Barradas and Alec Azedo might prove too good for them.

The Victorians are taking no chances and will be fielding their strongest possible infield of Manuel Roza, first-base; Joe Marques, second-base; Charlie Huang, third-base; and Bimby Ablong in the short stop gap. The R.A.F. battery will be Hemsley and Gillespie.

In the Inter-Hong double header schedule, cables take on Hong Kong Bankers in the opener at 10 a.m. on the Marina Ground.

Bankers were fortunate enough to snatch a victory from the Lacas, who were shirt-handed, in their opening game recently. On that occasion, Bankers did not field their star players, the Gosano brothers, Gerry and Bertie, both of whom represent the Rees in the First Division League. I have been given to understand that these two will not play in this game. Should this be the case, it is quite likely that Cables will turn the tables on them.

Cables are a fairly good fielding team, but lack pitching strength, their ace hurler Wally Mohamed being unable to go the full route.

Billy Wilkinson, on the bench during their last game, is being tried out at pitching, and will possibly go in as relief as soon as Mohamed shows signs of tiring. "Pitsy" Barradas on the hill for Bankers is another one of those tossers with nothing on the ball, depending mainly on backing from his team-mates.

Following this fracas, Green Spots lock horns with the Chartered Bankers, in the latter's first appearance in this loop, although the faces of the players will be familiar to softball fans.

Included in their line-up will be Barney Abbas, flashy keystone of the Cyclones. The Orange Squashers, boast "Powerhouse" Stan Leonard, slugging first sacker of the Saints, whilst their infield include A. B. Hassan, "Tarzan" Ismail and A. K. Omar, of the Indian Softballers. This should be the game to watch in this league.

(Treverton, 145), 1½ and 3, 8th E. (2). Income Tax (Tao, 148); 2, Fair Chance (Proulx, 152); 3, Springhurst (Poy, 149). Short head and short head. 9th E. 1 Mile 151 Yards 1.52.1—Viceroy (Black, 154); 2, Lancashire Chips (Treverton, 150); 3, Amicus Curiae (Chao, 155). 1 and ¾, 11th E. 1.57.1—Brown Derby (Black, 162); 2, Shuttlecock (Hearne, 147); 3, Piccadilly Jim (Poy, 155). 1½ and 2, 8th E. (2). 1.59.2—Maple Star (Yeung Wing-kwai, 165); 2, Quick Despatch (Cooper, 155); 3, Rooify (Haynes, 162). 4 and a head. 12th E. Quick Despatch was disqualified and Longdon (Chattey, 145) was given third place. 2.00.3—Winnie (Chiu Ki-fan, 140); 2, Tarzan (Hoo, 137); 3, Quick Despatch (Cooper, 148). 5 and 2, 9th E. 1/4 Miles 2.12.0—Australian Diamond (Wei, 154); 2, Many-Thanks (Black, 151); 3, Connieber (Hearne, 152). Many and 2, 7th E. 2.13.2—Springhurst (Poy, 143); 2, Rowan (Hearne, 155); 3, Murumbidgee (Black, 147). Short head and 2, 8th E. (1). 2.17.3—Cheerful Star (Tao, 150); 2, Piccadilly Jim (Poy, 158); 3, Centre Court (Sung, 160). 2 and 1½, 8th E. (1). 3.12.4—Sapper (Davis, 150); 2, Amicus Curiae (Chao, 150); 3, Viceroy (Botelho, 150). 3 and 4, 10th E. 1/4 Miles 3.42.4—Piccadilly Jim (Chao, 150); 2, Triumphant Bay (Sung, 146); 3, Fair Chance (Ip Kiu-ying, 151). 4 and 2, 12th E. 3.49.2—Piccadilly Jim (Chao, 157); 2, Centre Court (Sung, 155); 3, Warrego River (Black, 154). Neck and 6, 10th E.

TENNIS LEAGUE CHAMPIONS "AT HOME"

By "Saladin"

Chinese Recreation Club are holding an "At Home" to-morrow, to close another successful year — they won the "A" Division Lawn Tennis League for the ninth consecutive year and the "B" "C" Divisions.

Tennis is the spice of life at this club. At no other club in this Colony is interest greater, and as a result thereof they have produced good material continuously to match the Colony's best. At present, they are holding their annual tennis tournament and while the Tsui brothers will, in all probability, be the leading lights, I expect some new blood, not lacking in talent and promise, to provide tough opposition and close competition well worth going a long way to watch.

Principal among the new challengers are Ip Koon-hung and Chan Tak-chan.

The former already holds the singles championship of South China Athletic Association. Around 20 years of age, he possesses the necessary repertoire of strokes to enable him to forge to the forefront, and, with a little more experience and seasoning he may, as some expect, turn out to be the outstanding player of the immediate future.

Chan is another youthful competitor who stepped into the winning C.R.C. "A" Division League team this year. He is from the Dutch East Indies, and in the deciding match for the Shield he partnered Paul Kong to share a set with the Rumjahn cousins. Chan then played an aggressive game, scoring often with strong forehand drives and accurate smashing against this seasoned combination.

In the Singles Championship Tsui Wai-pui is in the top half, having Chan Tak-chan and Paul Kong as his principal obstacles to the Final, while in the bottom half Tsui Yun-pui has Ip Koon-hung and Dr. Dew to contend with to qualify to meet his brother for the title.

Tsuis Pair Up

In the Doubles event the Tsui brothers have paired together and as naturally hot favourites for the title. This is, I believe, the first time since they became Hong Kong champions that the brothers have partnered one another for the club title, and the object may be to secure more competitive tennis together in anticipation of the Colony Doubles Championship, which is not so far off now. Ip Koon-hung and Dr. Dew appear in the same half of the draw, and are expected to provide the principal opposition.

In the other half, I expect a very keen fight for the right of entry to the Final. Chan Tak-chan and Lee Yu-wing stand out prominently, but much will depend on Lee to give his partner support. Veteran Paul Kong has teamed up with Billie U, who was once a match for Kho Sin-kie before the latter's European tour. Lee Wai-tsui and Ho Wing-chun also cannot be overlooked. They combine well and have enjoyed a measure of success prior to this competition.

Dr. Dew and Lau Fook-kee have teamed up for the Handicap Doubles, and the aggregate age of

this partnership is over 100 years! They, however, commanded the respect from the handicappers to the extent that they are placed at owe 15, which is the level of Ho Ka-lau and Yew Man-kit, once Hong Kong interporters! Dr. Dew himself is older than the combined ages of the Tsui brothers themselves, but he plays sufficiently well still to be worthy of attention by the Colony ex-champions. Also in this tournament are such well-known figures as Lee Wai-tong and Iu Tak-cheuk.

The Draw

The draw for the various events is as follows:

SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Quarter—Tsui Wai Pui v Lee Wai Tong, Wong Kok Ngong v Paul Kong.
2nd Quarter—Iu Tak Cheuk v Chan Tak Chan, Peter U v Lee Wai Tsui.
3rd Quarter—Ip Koon Hung v Pang Oi Lam, Ho Wing Chun v Leung Ping Chiu.

4th Quarter—Ho Ka Lau v Lee Yu Wing, Wai Chung Tung v Tsui Yun Pui.

DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Double—Lee Wai Tong and Iu Tak Cheuk v Lee Yu Wing and Chan Tak Chan.

2nd Double—Paul Kong and Billie U bye to meet the winners of Fang Oi Lam and Leung Ping Chiu v Lee Wai Tsui and Ho Wing Chung.

3rd Double—Iu Tak Lam and Wong Kok Ngong v Tsui Wai Pui and Tsui Yun Pui.

SINGLES HANDICAP

1st Quarter—Wei Chun Tung, owe 2/6 v Chung Yu Wing rec. 15.2, Ho Ka Lau owe 30 bye, to meet winner of previous tie, Tsui Chu Wo rec. 5/6 bye, Tsui Yun Pui owe 40 bye.

2nd Quarter—Ng Kam Chuen owe 4/6 bye, Wong Kwok Fong rec. 15.4 bye, Wong Kok Ngong owe 5/6 bye to meet winner of Lam Yuk Ying rec. 3/6 v Lee Yu Wing owe 30.

3rd Quarter—Peter U rec. 3/6 v Chan Yin rec. 15.3, Iu Tak Cheuk owe 30 bye to meet winner of previous tie, Ma Wai Kwong owe 1/6 bye, Leung Sai Wa owe 4/6 bye.

4th Quarter—Tsui Tin Fook rec. 15.3 bye, Lee Wai Tong owe 30 bye, Chan In Chee rec. 15 bye to meet the winner of Ho Wai Hing owe 5/6 v Tong Siu Yung rec. 15.

DOUBLES HANDICAP

1st Quarter—Dai Kung Pak and Foo Wun Tong rec. 30 v Lo Tung Fan and Chau Hung Ning rec. 2/6, Chan Yin and Lee Wai Tsui rec. v Ma Wai Kwong and Tsui Tin Fook rec. 15, Lau Fook Kee and Dr. Dew owe 15 v Paul Kong and Tsui Chee Wo owe 15.

2nd Quarter—Sze To Plik and Lee Ngan Nung owe 4/6 v Wong Kwok Fong and Tong Siu Yin rec. 15.3, Lam Yuk Ying and Ng Kam Chuen owe 3/8 v Lee Yu Wing and Tsui Chun Yau owe 2/6, Luk Ding Cheung and Luk Chan Cheung owe 15.3 v Lee Wai Tong and Cheung Koon Sang owe 15.

3rd Quarter—Iu Tak Lam and Hon Luen Fun owe 1/6 v Pang Oi Lam and Leung Ping Chiu owe 30, Wong King Man and Ho Wing Chung rec. 2/6 v Wong Kok Ngong and Ip Koon Hung owe 30, Tang Man Chiu and Leung Sai Wa rec. 4/6 v Choy Weng Chiu and W. C. Hung owe 5/6.

4th Quarter—Tsui Yun Pui and Chiu Chun Chiu owe 40 v Wa Jun Tung and Chan Tak Chan owe 5/6, Peter U and Billie U rec. v Tsui Wai Pui and Chung Iu Wing owe 30, Ho Ka Lau and Yew Man Kit owe 15 v Iu Tak Cheuk and Leung Ding Ngok.

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WEEK-END SOCCER PROGRAMME

To-day

FIRST DIVISION
Middlesex v Kwong Wah
(Sookunpoo, 4.00 p.m.)
Club v South China
(Club, 4.00 p.m.)

SECOND DIVISION
South China v Service Corps
(Caroline Hill, 2.30 p.m.)
Kowloon v Engineers
(Kowloon, 2.30 p.m.)
Club v R. Scots
(Club, 2.30 p.m.)

Police v Middlesex
(Chatham Road, 4.00 p.m.)
Ordnance v Kit Chee
(Sookunpoo, 2.30 p.m.)

THIRD DIVISION
Signals v 7th R.A.
(St. Joseph's, 2.30 p.m.)
12th R.A. v Medicals
(Stanley, 2.30 p.m.)
International v Shell
(Caroline Hill, 4.00 p.m.)
20th R.A. v 36th R.A.
(Military, 2.30 p.m.)

Engineers v Service Corps
(Military, 4.00 p.m.)

To-morrow

FIRST DIVISION
Eastern v Police
(Caroline Hill, 4.00 p.m.)
Sing Tao v St. Joseph's
(Club, 4.00 p.m.)

SECOND DIVISION
R. Navy v Kwong Wah
(Causeway Bay, 2.30 p.m.)
Sing Tao v 30th R.A.
(Club, 2.30 p.m.)

ARMY & CLUB RUGBY WINS EXPECTED

Army should conclude the First Round of the Quadrangular Rugby Tournament to-day in first position as the result of a narrow win over Navy at Causeway Bay, commencing at 4 p.m.

There will be little between the two teams, providing no drastic changes are made.

At 2.45 p.m. Club "A" meet Army "A" on the same ground.

Club meet Police in a Tournament game at Boundary Street at 4 p.m., and, providing Camp does not deplete the Club team too much they should win by a big margin. Macrae and Godfrey are not available, and are being replaced by S. Lee and J. Redman.

Following are the teams:

ARMY—L/C. Fiction (R.E.'s); Sgt. Richards (R.A.), Capt. Douglass (B.S.), Capt. Hook (R.A.) (Capt.) and Pte. McDonald (R.A.M.C.); Lt. Coombes (R.A.M.C.) and 2/Lt. Wedderburn (R.A.); Cpl. Sutherland (R.S.), 2/Lt. Ford (R.S.), 2/Lt. Bompas (R.A.); 2/Lt. Millar (R.S.), 2/Lt. Heath (R.A.); 2/Lt. Plinkerton (R.S.), Capt. Duke (R.S.) and Cpl. Gilliam (1/M.R.).

Reserves:—Capt. Barclay (R.A.M.C.), L/C. Foley (R.E.'s) and Pte. Berry (1/M.R.).

NAVY—Lieut. Morahan; S/Lieut. McGill, Tel. Honeywill, A/Ldg. Tel. Paul, A/Ldg. Tel. Bowden; Mid. O'Riordan, Lt. Rutherford; L.S.A. Palmer, Lt. Watson (Capt.), Sergeant Mansfield, C.P.O. Wir. King, F/Lt. Taylor, A.B. Longmuir, S/Lt. Beattie, S/Lt. Poole.

Reserves:—S/Lieut. Kennedy, Cdt. Lambie, S/Lt. Winter, Lt. (E) Brown, L.A.C. Stockham.

CLUB—Thompson; Bosanquet, Carruthers, Day and Stewart; Aitkenhead and Thomson; Lee, Burford, Headman; Needham, Hackett; Redman, Taylor and Kennedy.

TO-MORROW'S SOFTBALL

Following is to-morrow's Softball programme:

SENIOR LEAGUE
At Kowloon Football Club Ground
Filipinos v St. Joseph's
(4.00 p.m.)

Recreo v Cyclones
(2.45 p.m.)

Canadian Chinese v Indian Softballers
(4.00 p.m.)

JUNIOR LEAGUE
At Chatham Road

Chung Hwa v Cosmopolitan
(9.00 a.m.)

South China v Recrelo Bees
(10.15 a.m.)

V.R.C. v R.A.F.
(11.30 a.m.)

Liga Portuguesa v Central British
(12.45 p.m.)

LADIES' LEAGUE
At Kowloon Football Club Ground
Cardinals v Recrelo Bambollettes
(9.00 a.m.)

Chung Hwa v Little Flower Club
(10.30 a.m.)

Wildcats v Wahoes
(12 noon)

INTER-HONG LEAGUE
At the Marina Ground

Hong Kong Bankers v Cables
(10.45 a.m.)

Green Spots v Chartered Bank
(11.15 a.m.)

WAHOOS MEET WILDCATS IN VITAL GAME

By "Grandstand"

STILL ELATED at the return of "Big Chief Wahoo" Therese Noronha, the Green-shirted Wahoos are all set to meet the formidable Wildcats at noon to-morrow, when the two teams cross bats.

During the mid-week practices Therese Noronha is gradually overcoming the strangeness of teaming up with hind-snatcher Jackie Anderson, and although it is possible she may not pitch in this crucial game, her stick-work should help the Green Owls to a great extent, as their play has been conspicuous by this weakness during their recent turnouts. They should have won their last game with the Canuckettes, with only one more better than average hitter.

At the present moment, their only hitters are Yvonne Yolle, Jackie Anderson and Irene Caetano, with Jeannette "Blondie" Yolle coming through once in a while.

The undefeated Wildcats, who have swept everything before them so far, have had only one anxious moment, and that was when they staged a last inning rally to snatch the game from the Baby Panthers.

Essentially a hitting team, the Untamed Felines should take this tilt, the only weak link in their line-up of sluggers being Vivian Chu.

Thelma Collaco, on the mound for Wildcats, has hurled some good games in the past, but whether she can gang up with her teammates under pressure remains to be seen.

"Doc" Molthen, Johnnie Fonseca and Harry Campos have been selected to umpire this game.

Cards' Superior Batting

At 9 a.m. Cardinals tangle with the Recreio Ramblers in an evenly matched game. The Redbirds have the better twirler in Elegina Babida, who should be able to keep the Ramblers guessing. The latter team, although having two pitchers on their roster, first-string Jerry Jorge and relief Lolly Rodrigues, both have been content just to toss them over, leaving it to the fielders.

In the batting department, too, the Cards have the edge over the Ramblers, and for this reason, I give "Doc" Molthen's Redbirds the nod.

Arbitrators will be Hal Winglee, Johnnie Fonseca and Al Lau.

Immediately after this tilt, the Little Flowers meet the Chung Hwa lassies in the battle for the "wooden spoon," as both teams have nothing to show in their games won column up to date.

Although both teams have had half a season's experience, neither team can be said to have improved much. Lily Silva, on the mound for the Florinhas, and mainstay of the team, has the makings of a good hurler, while her willow wielding isn't half so bad.

Chung Hwa have veterans May Chung and Ella Chinn, formerly of the Wildcats. This is one tilt that can be anybody's game, and your guess is as good as mine.

"Doc" Molthen, Caco Marques and Dave Walker are in charge of this game.

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R.A.F. 'PLANES CREATE CHAOS IN ITALIAN REAR

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Fighters Gun Retreating Wop Infantry

ARMED MERCHANT CRUISER TORPEDOED.

The armed merchant cruiser Forfar has been torpedoed and subsequently sank, it was revealed in London last night.

An announcement by the Admiralty said that next of kin of casualties have been informed.—Reuter.

Naval Advances On Merit

Young captains of outstanding merit in the Royal Navy will be eligible for promotion to the rank of Rear-Admiral under a new promotion system, it was announced by the Admiralty yesterday.

The next batch of promotions is due early in the new year and will not depend on seniority, as hitherto, but will be selected from Captain's in the upper five years of the promotion list.

This decision has been approved by an Order-in-Council, says Reuter's Naval Correspondent, and marks an almost revolutionary change in the procedure of naval promotion and brings to an end the conflict between the different schools of thought that has lasted since the year 1747.

It will enable the Admiralty to get down five years in the Captain's list and make promotions based on merit instead of seniority merely.—Reuter.



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STOP PRESS

COMMUNIQUES AND AGENCY REPORTS FROM CAIRO YESTERDAY EVENING MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE RETREATING AND DEFEATED ITALIAN TROOPS IN THE WESTERN DESERT ARE STILL BEING HOTLY PURSUED BY ALLIED TROOPS.

Several thousand prisoners, over and above the 20,000 reported on Thursday, have been taken, including two more General Officers commanding Divisions.

The capture of five of these officers means that five Italian Divisions have been driven out of their strongly fortified positions in less than a week.

All the supplies of food and oil the Italians had accumulated for the drive into Egypt have been captured by the British, who are now turning them to their own uses.

R.A.F. reconnaissances show that Advance Headquarters of the Italian 10th Army is moving out of Bardia and is heading westwards for Tobruk.

Chaos Behind The Lines

These reports confirm the chaos reported to have been caused to Italian bases and lines of communication by the continual bombings of our bomber planes and naval guns of the Mediterranean Fleet.

Fighter pilots report large fires at Sollum and that they found a large column of Italian motorised vehicles hurrying back towards Tobruk.

Besides continual attacks on Italian aerodromes and lines of communication, our fighters are keeping up their raids on Italian troops, and it was learned last night that in the first three days of the operations our fighters made no less than 67 attacks behind the Italian lines.

Owing to the area of operations, says British headquarters, it is impossible as yet to give any precise figure for the number of prisoners taken so far.

Problems Of Distance

Military circles point out that the area of the actual "battle-front" is around 500 square miles. Disorganised Italian troops are scattered all over this area, so that it is possible that there are some points where the Italians are still resisting and these have to be cleaned up.

The whole of Albania, incidentally, could be put in just one corner of the battle-area formed by the triangle between Sollum, Sidi Barrani and the Siwa Oasis.

The great distances involved cause supply problems, added to which are occasional sand-storms and the other natural difficulties of the desert.

The five Italian generals have now been taken to Cairo. One of them is General Sebastiano, a Corps Commander, and he and General Meletti (who was killed on the first day) were the two Commanders of the Italian troops in Egypt.

It will be a big task to deal with all the prisoners the Allied troops have captured—but it is a task they will undertake most willingly!

Incessant Air Attacks

A communiqué issued yesterday evening by R.A.F. Headquarters, Middle East, said that bomber and fighter planes maintained their incessant attacks on enemy aerodromes, troops and motor transport all day Thursday and all during the night.

A particularly heavy raid was carried out against Tobruk on Thursday night, many tons of bombs being dropped on the town and harbour.

Fires were observed burning fiercely in many places, and violent explosions and fires were observed near petrol dumps at Sol-

lum as our planes returned from the Tobruk raid.

At an aerodrome near Tobruk it was found that the hangars had been completely gutted by previous raids. Planes on the ground were heavily machine-gunned.

Another big raid was carried out against Bardia, where bombs caused violent explosions in a store dump, the flames shooting 1,000 feet into the air.

Many planes on the ground were machine-gunned and three C.R.-42s were destroyed.

In all, over 12 enemy aerodromes or landing-grounds were raided, and considerable damage done.

Fighter plane patrols covered the advance of our troops, attacking and disrupting mechanised transport, troops on the march and lines of communication.

The Royal Australian Air Force shot down three C.R.-42s.

One of our eight-gunned planes attacked two S-79 bombers single-handed, despite the fact that they were protected by a large escort of C.R.-42s.—Reuter.

Artillery fire opened along the whole northern Albanian front early yesterday morning and later the Greeks began to throw their troops forward under a heavy barrage against fortified Italian positions.

The Greek attacks were particularly violent in the Develi Valley. Fighting was also violent in the valley leading towards Elbasan.

North and north-west of Podgradetz the Greeks are still moving slowly forward under very heavy fire.

Indeed the artillery duel is almost continuous along a line extending from Moskopolis, in the south, to Undarish, on Lake Ohrida, in the north.

During the day Italian bombers were very active along the Moskopolis-Koritzia line. The morale of the Greek troops, however, remains excellent under this assault.

Greek soldiers spoke enthusiastically of the help they had received from Britain and are confident of receiving further assistance should it be necessary.—Reuter.

WAVELL'S SLEDGE-HAMMER

(Continued from Page 1)

themselves on the ground while bombs burst among them."

Sidi Barrani Epic

The capture of Sidi Barrani was a minor epic in itself. First stage was the capture of Maktila, 12 miles to the east along the coast after a naval bombardment which put to flight the majority of the Libyan troops there, leaving only the Italian garrison and some Italian officers.

Part of this fleeing force was intercepted by the British and wiped out.

The remainder reached Sidi Barrani, supplementing the crack Black Shirt division which was holding the town behind the elaborate defence system which the Italians had been preparing for months.

Black Shirts Cut Off

While the Fleet and Air Force subjected Sidi Barrani to a hail of fire the Army attacked from three directions—from the east, from south-east and from the south.

To the west, another British force reached the sea 10 miles away near Bug Bug and cut off the retreat of the Black Shirts along the coast.

While a biting wind from the west blew a pitiless hail of sand into the faces of our infantry, the attack was pressed home against heavy fire and Sidi Barrani was completely mopped up by noon on Wednesday.

Last to fall were some enemy strong points around the town.

The Colonel's Pyjamas

The operation was not without its minor humour.

In one place which surrendered the British troops found an Italian colonel awaiting them with his pyjamas packed in a bag all ready for internment.

He was taken to a select desert prison camp established for the use of generals, colonels and majors only, whose occupants include Colonel Giuseppi, General Pescatori, commanding the 2nd Division of Libyans, and the son of General Maletti, who was wounded.—Reuter.

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